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Yozakura Quartet

Suzuhito Yasuda

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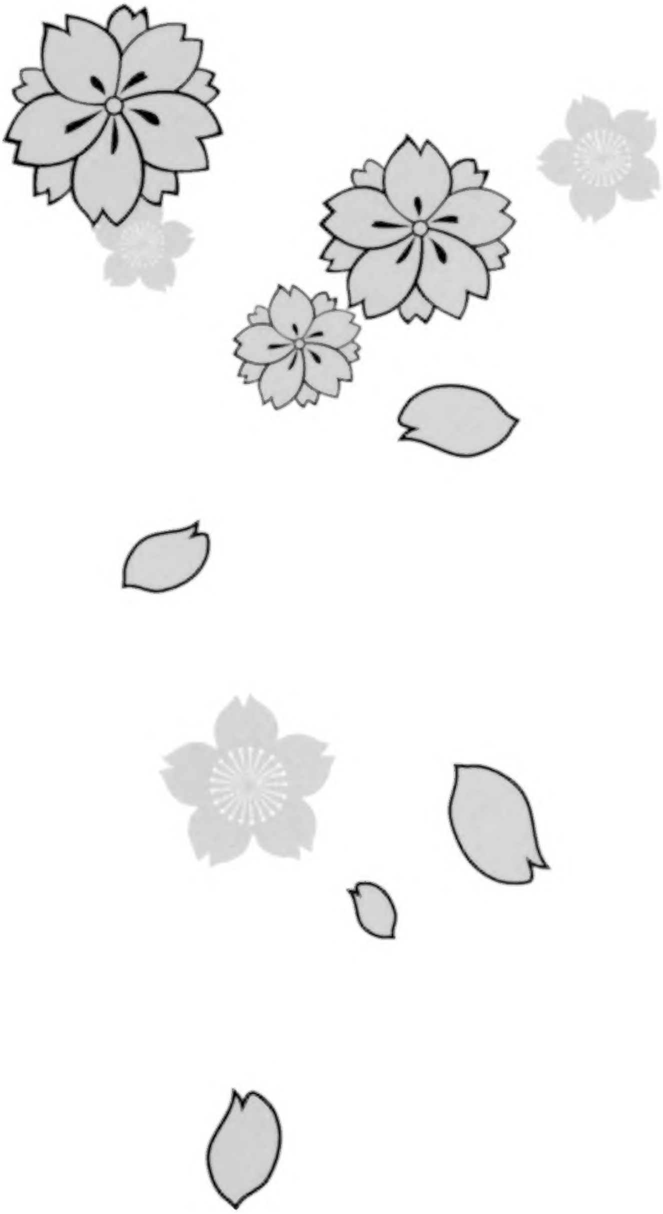
A Note from the Author

I bought an electronic drum set so that I would get more exercise.
I play my favorite songs, even though I suck. Or I play it with video games.
It actually gives me a good workout.
Anyway, the instrument Akina is playing is called "timbales."
It sounds good and I would want one, but it would cause noise issues
with my neighbors.
I wish someone would make electronic timbales.
I know it's a niche market, but...

Suzuhito Yasuda



Honorifics Explained

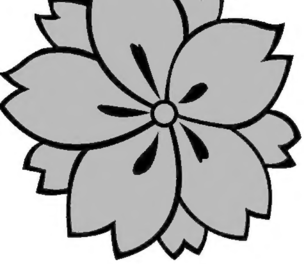
Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

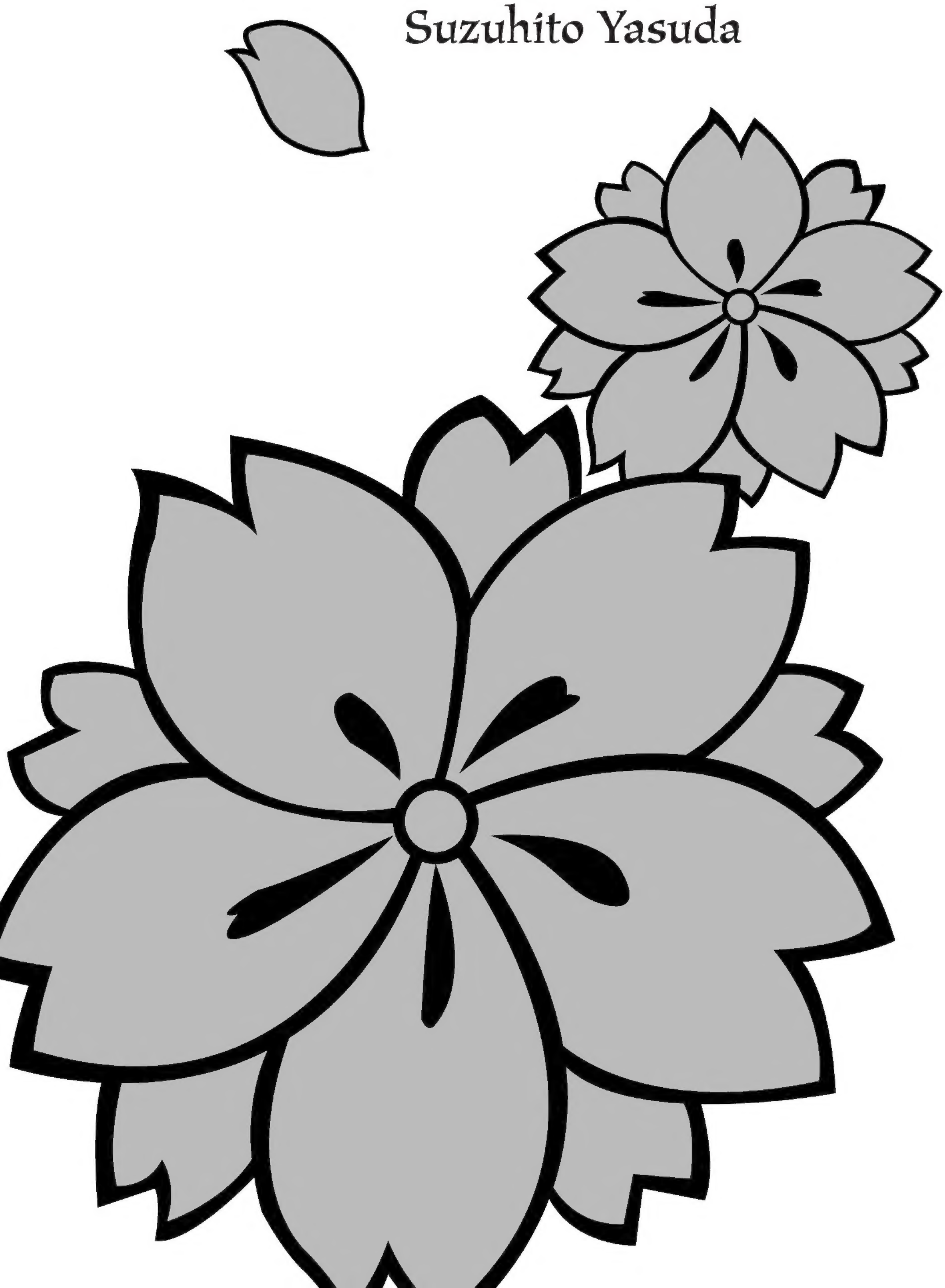
-san:	This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.
-sama:	This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.
-dono:	This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun:	This suffix is used at the end of boys’ names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.
-chan:	This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.
Bozu:	This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms “kid” and “squirt.”
Sempai/Senpai:	This title suggests that the addressee is one’s senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as “sempai.” It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.
Kohai:	This is the opposite of “sempai” and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.
Sensei:	Literally meaning “one who has come before,” this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.
-[blank]:	This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one’s name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn’t been earned, it can be very insulting.

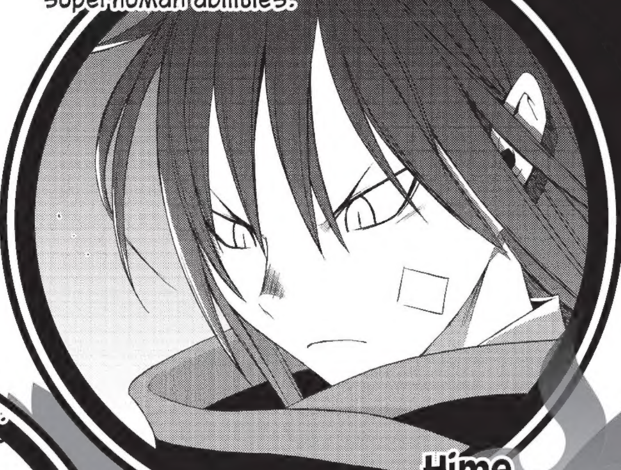


Yozakura Quartet 4

Suzuhito Yasuda

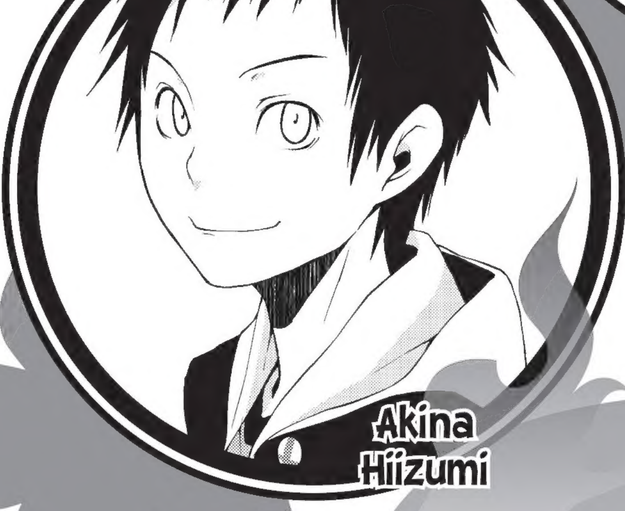


Hime is the Mayor of Sakurashin Town. She is in high school. She has superhuman abilities.



Hime Yarizakura

The director of the Hiizumi Life Counseling Office. He is a normal human who has to deal with all the weirdness that occurs in the town.



Akina Hiizumi

Quartet of cherry blossoms in the night

Yozakura Quartet

CHARACTER PROFILE

An employee of the Hiizumi Life Counseling Office. She is a satori, a demon that can read minds.

Ao Nanami

Kotoha Isone

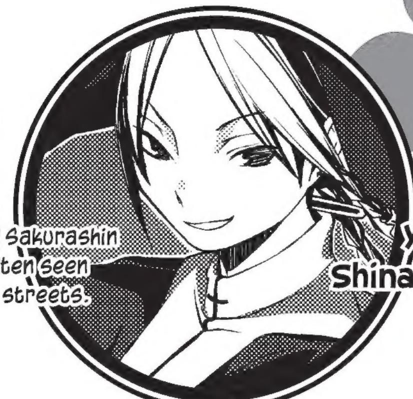
A part-time worker at the Hiizumi Life Counseling Office. She is a kotodama user, someone who can conjure up anything she speaks.

Kyosuke Kishi

Hime's assistant. He keeps his demon powers in check with shackles. He cares deeply for his younger sister, Touka, and he is constantly worried about her.

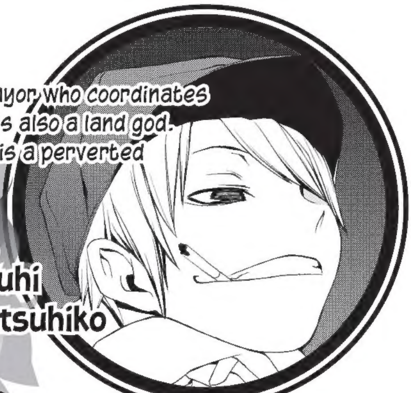
Touka Kishi

Kyosuke's younger sister. She can't control her demon powers. She is secretly in love with Akina.



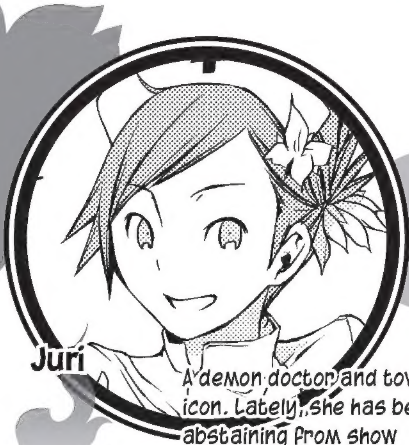
Yae Shinatsuhiko

The land god of Sakurashin Town. She is often seen wandering the streets.



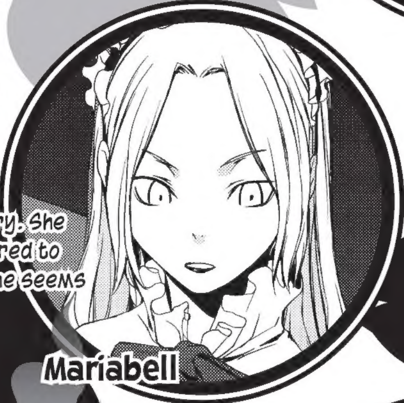
Yuhi Shinatsuhiko

The district Mayor who coordinates the towns. He is also a land god. Deep down, he is a perverted old man.



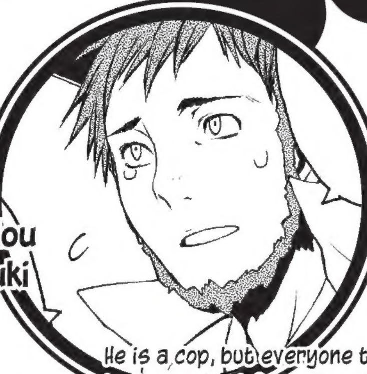
Juri

A demon doctor and town icon. Lately, she has been abstaining from show business.



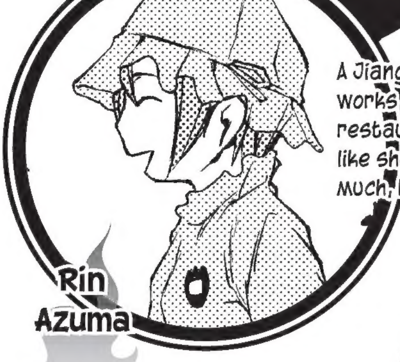
Mariabell

Yuhi's secretary. She is always ordered to cosplay, but she seems to enjoy it.



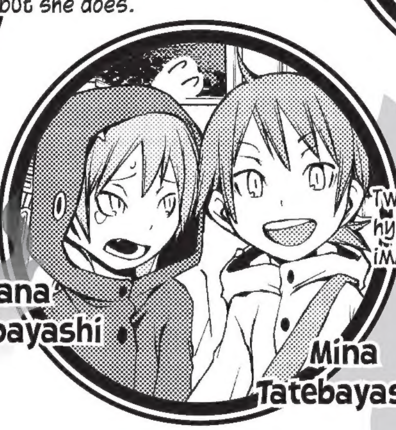
Shidou Mizuki

He is a cop, but everyone tends to forget that fact. He is busy watching over Mina and Kana.



Rin Azuma

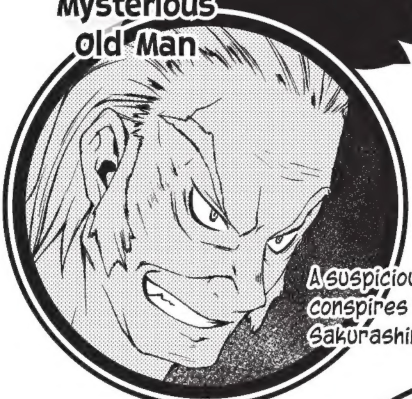
A Jiang Shi who works at a ramen restaurant. It looks like she doesn't work much, but she does.



Kana Tatebayashi

Mina Tatebayashi

Twins who are mermaid-vampire hybrids. They grow when they immerse themselves in water.



Mysterious Old Man

A suspicious elderly gentlemen. He conspires with Morino and attacks Sakurashin Town.

Kazuyoshi Morino

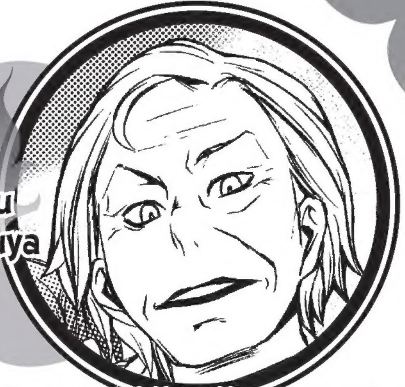
The current mayor of the neighboring town. He conspires with a mysterious old man to kidnap Kohime.

Eiji Shinozuka

Morino's secretary. He is half-demon like Kotoha, and has superhuman physical strength.

Kohime Sakurano

Hime's cousin and a candidate for the mayor of the neighboring town. She has been kidnapped.



Kiku Yotsuya

The old lady at the antique shop. She's been taking care of Hime and her friends ever since they were little.

Jinroku Yotsuya

The old man at the antique shop. He might be a good person at heart.

OUTLINE

Hime and the gang were pulled into the mess surrounding the upcoming mayoral election in the neighboring town. During all of this, Hime was able to obtain the Dragon Spear, which is passed on to Sakurashin's mayor.

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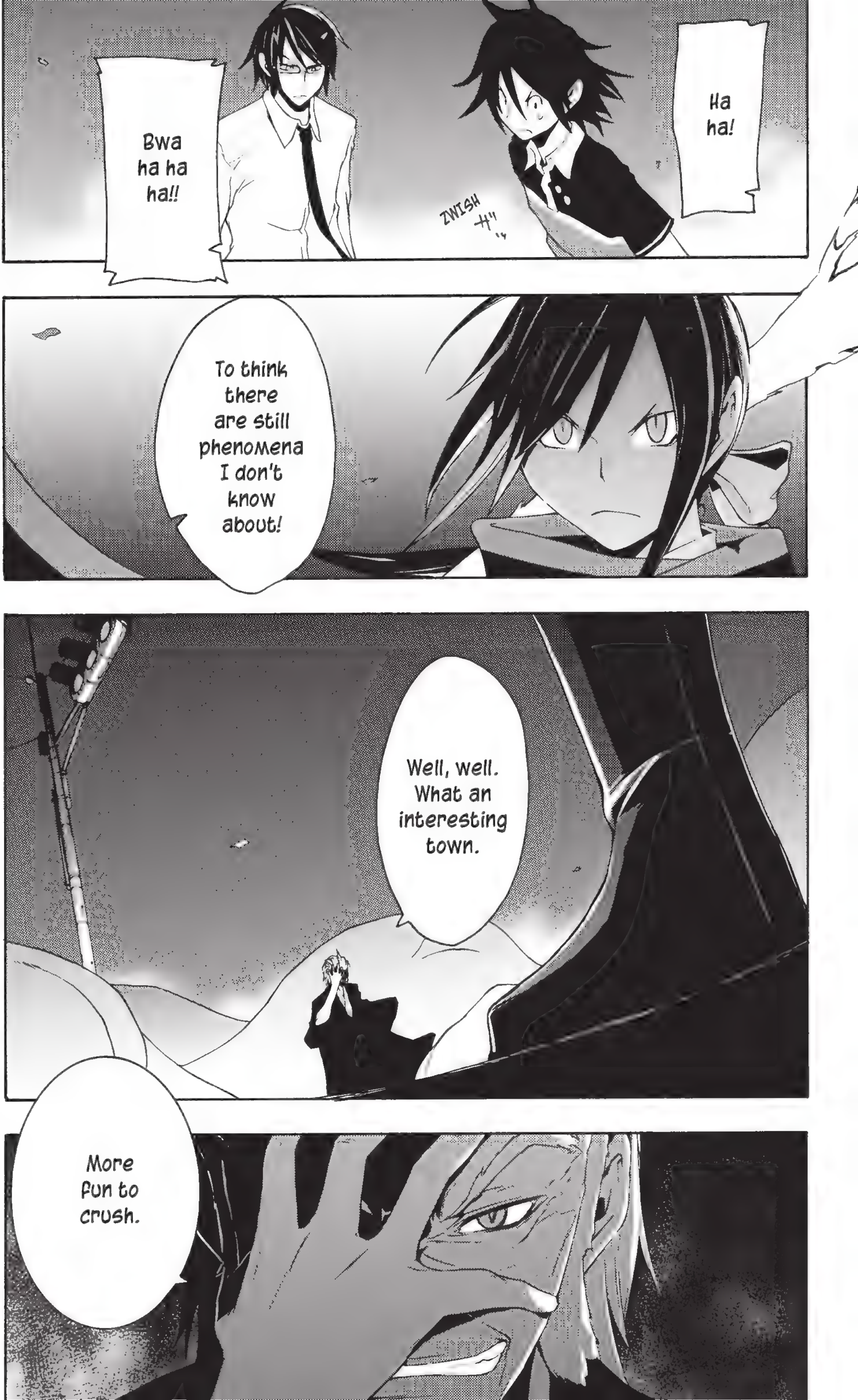
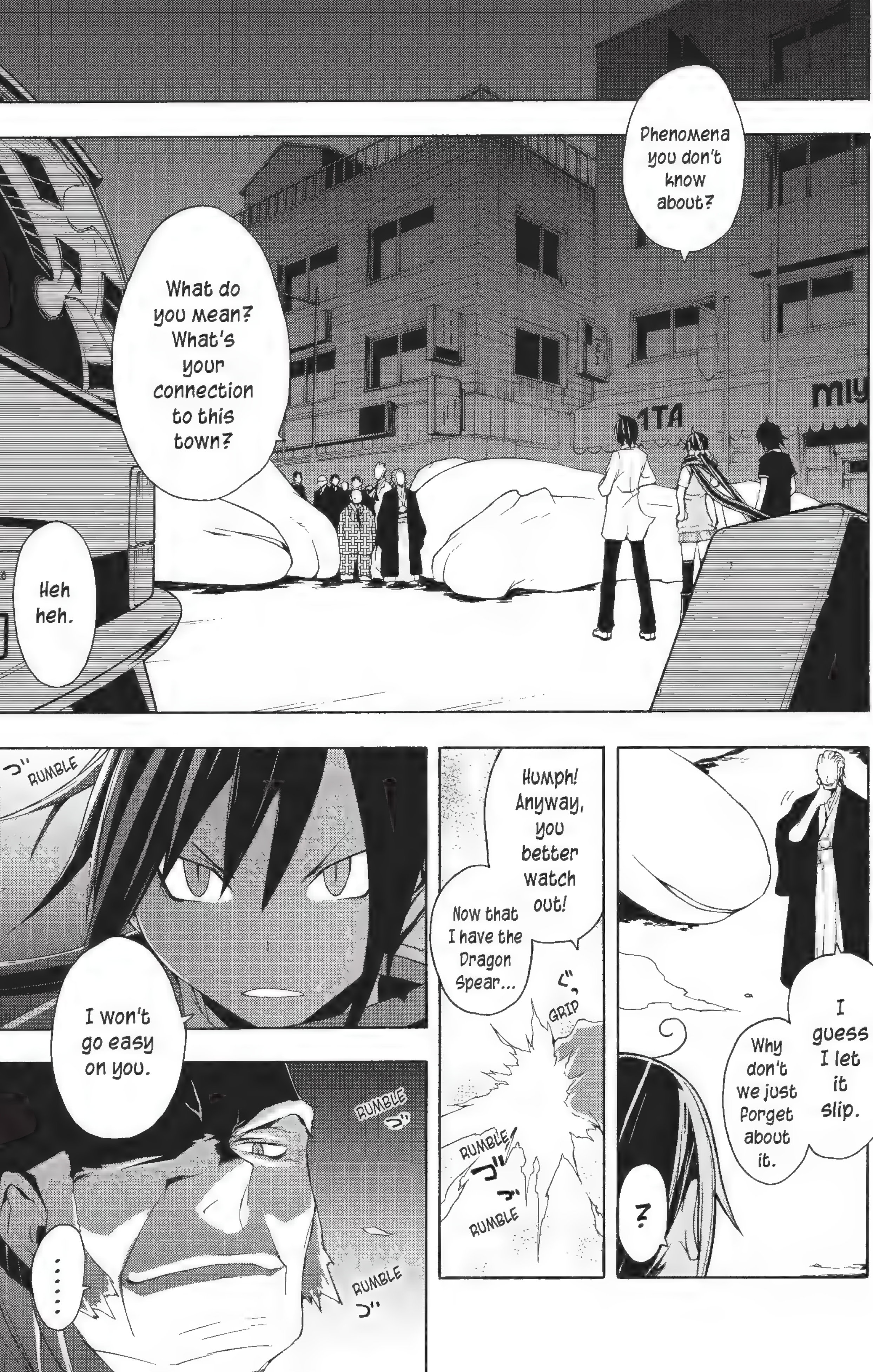
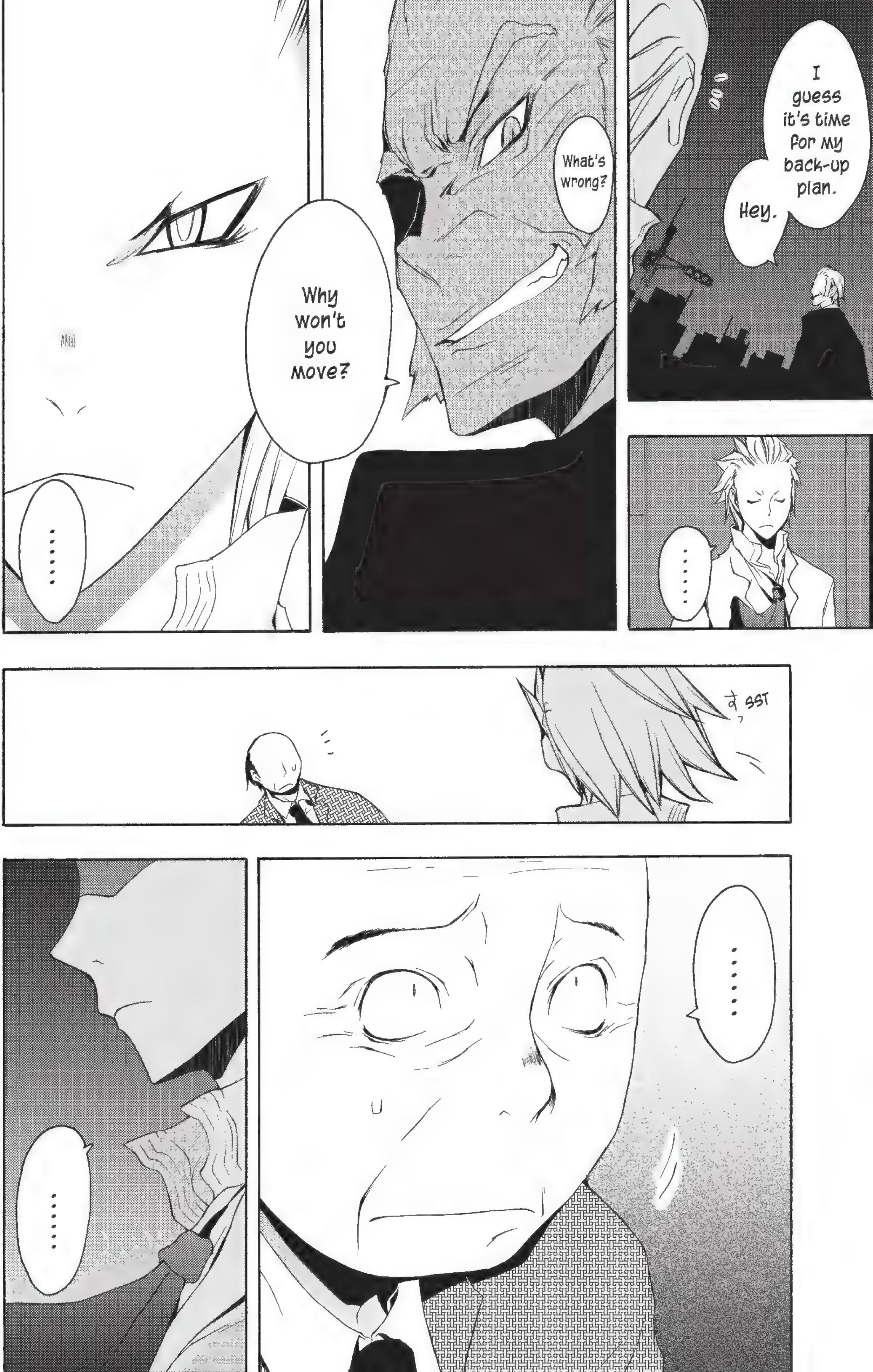
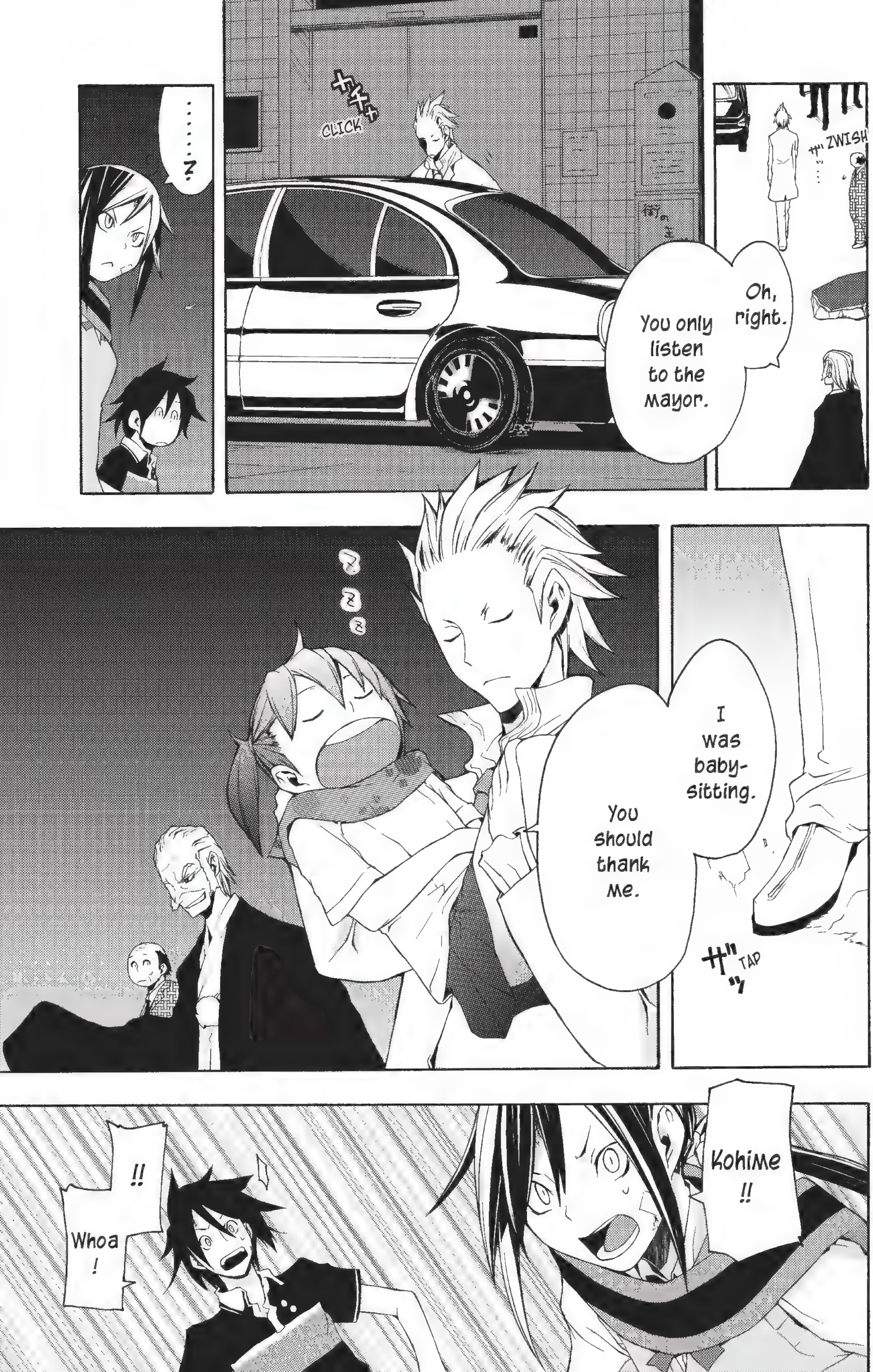
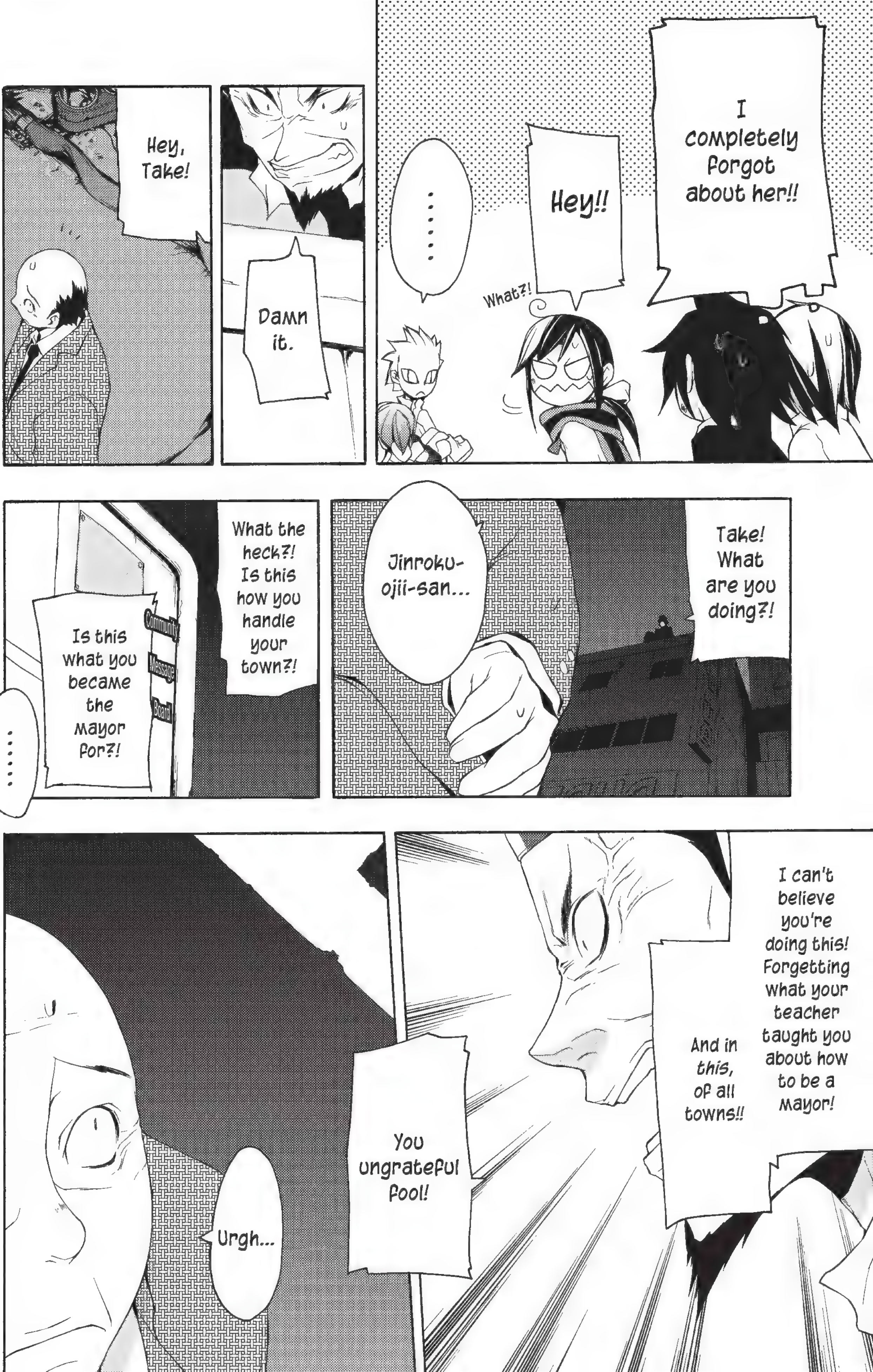

Ha ha!
Bwa ha ha ha!!
ZWISH
To think there are still phenomena I don't know about!
Well, well. What an interesting town.
More fun to crush.

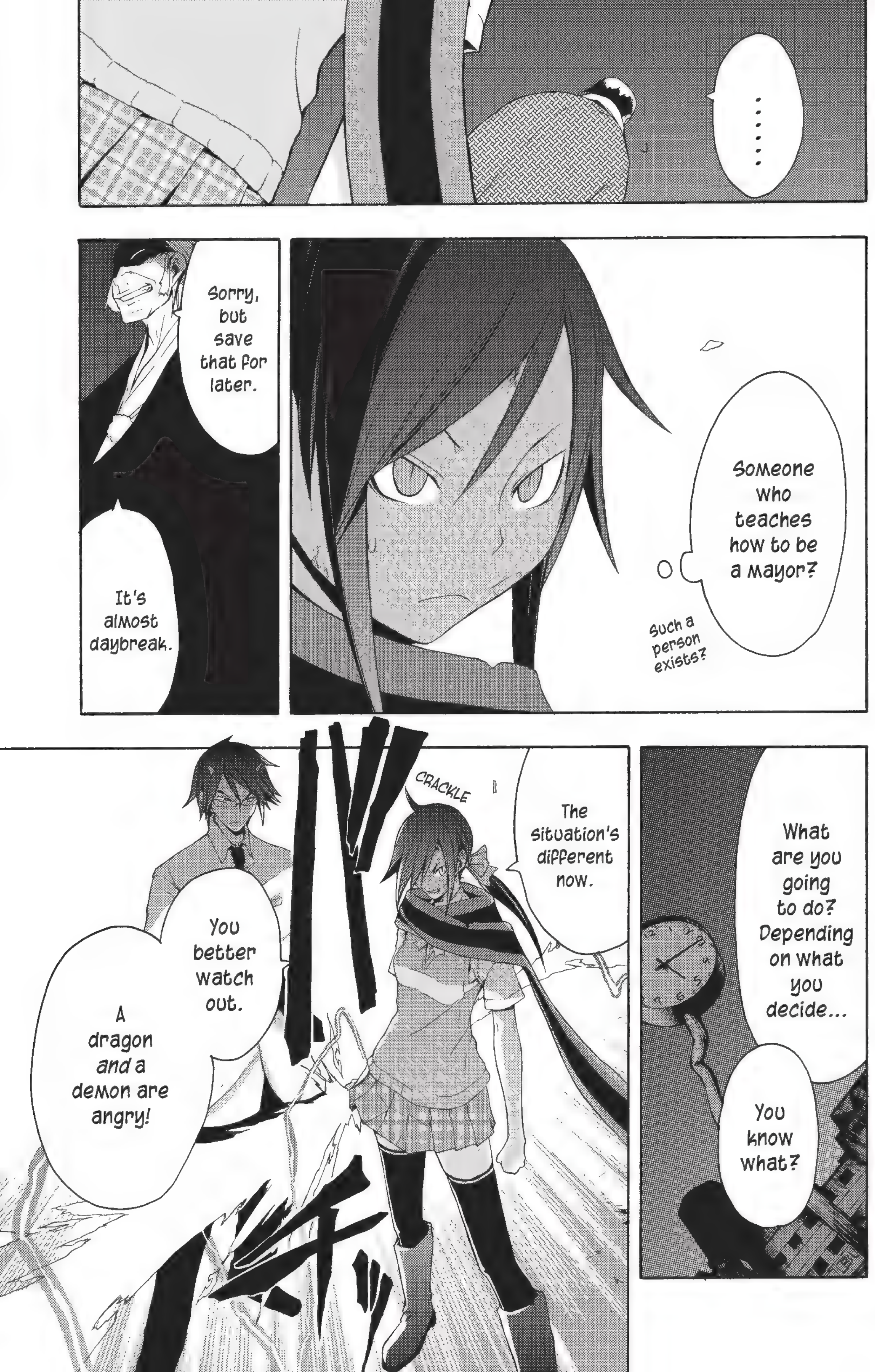
18th Night: Thorny Road (Part 8)

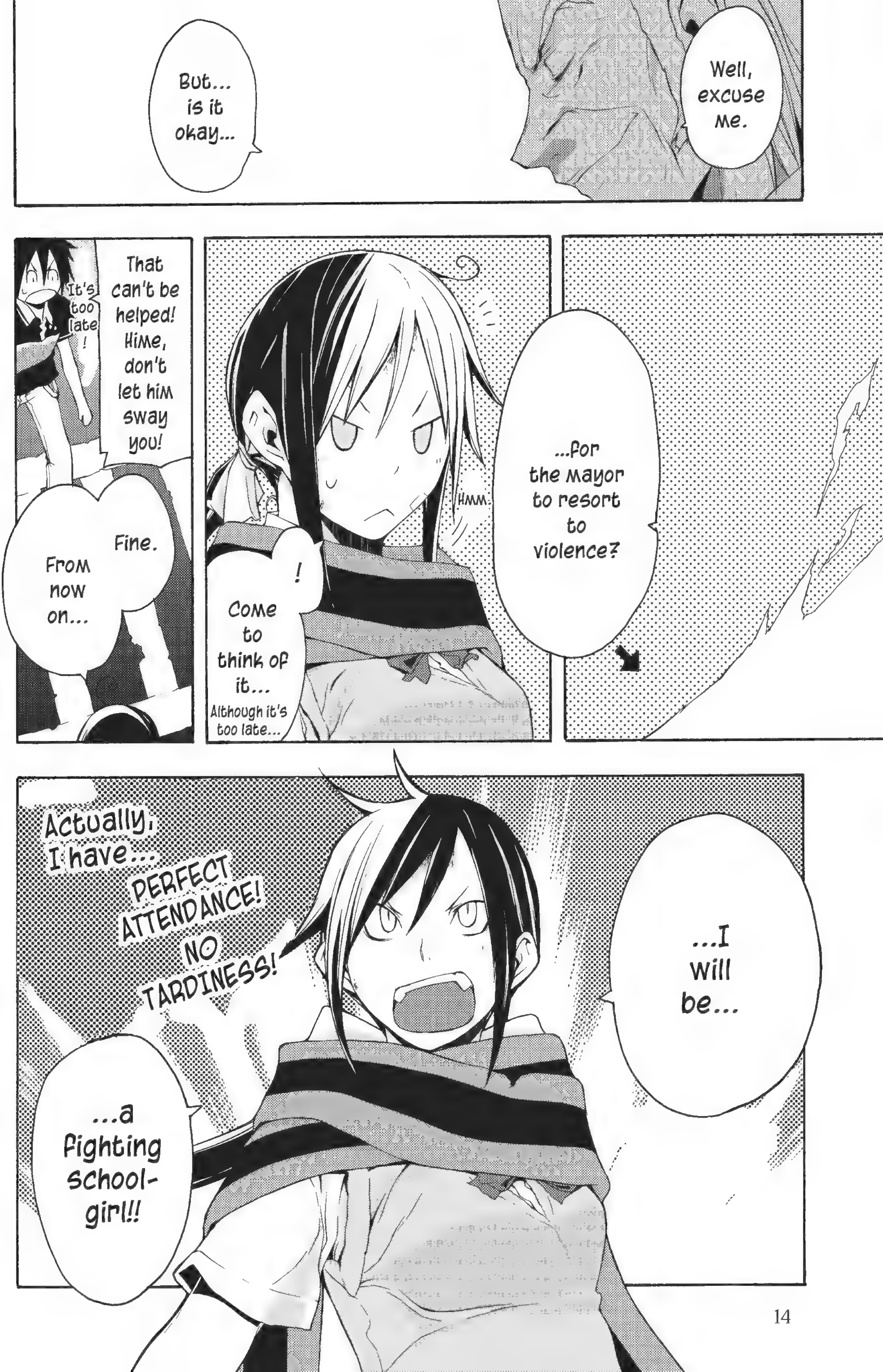

Phenomena you don't know about?
What do you mean? What's your connection to this town?
Heh heh.
I guess I let it slip.
Why don't we just forget about it.
?
Humph! Anyway, you better watch out!
Now that I have the Dragon Spear...
ぐ GRIP
RUMBLE ゴ
ゴ RUMBLE
ゴ RUMBLE
I won't go easy on you.
RUMBLE ゴ
RUMBLE ゴ
......

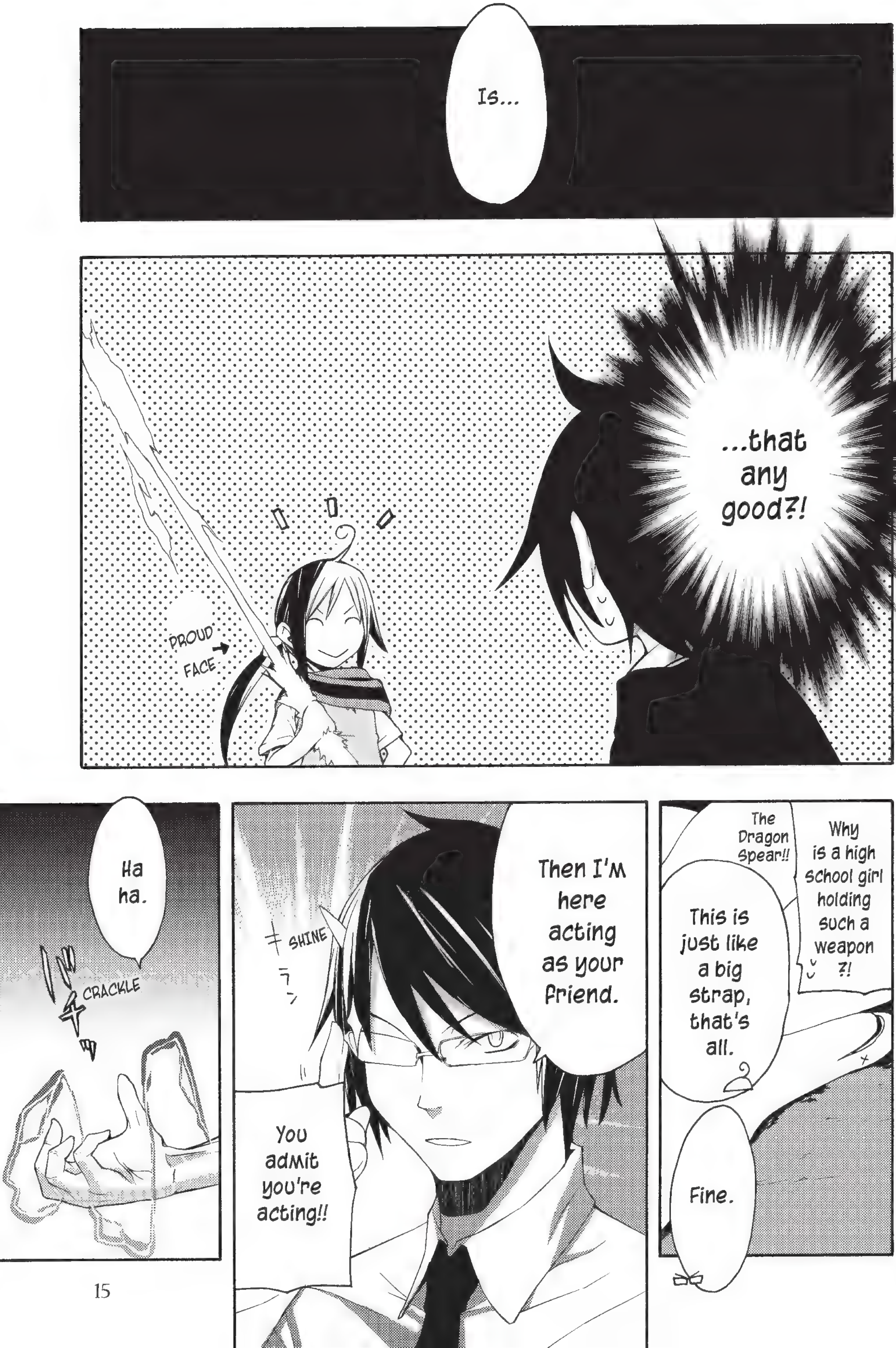

I guess it's time for my back-up plan.
Hey.
……
What's wrong?
Why won't you move?
……
すっ SST
……
……

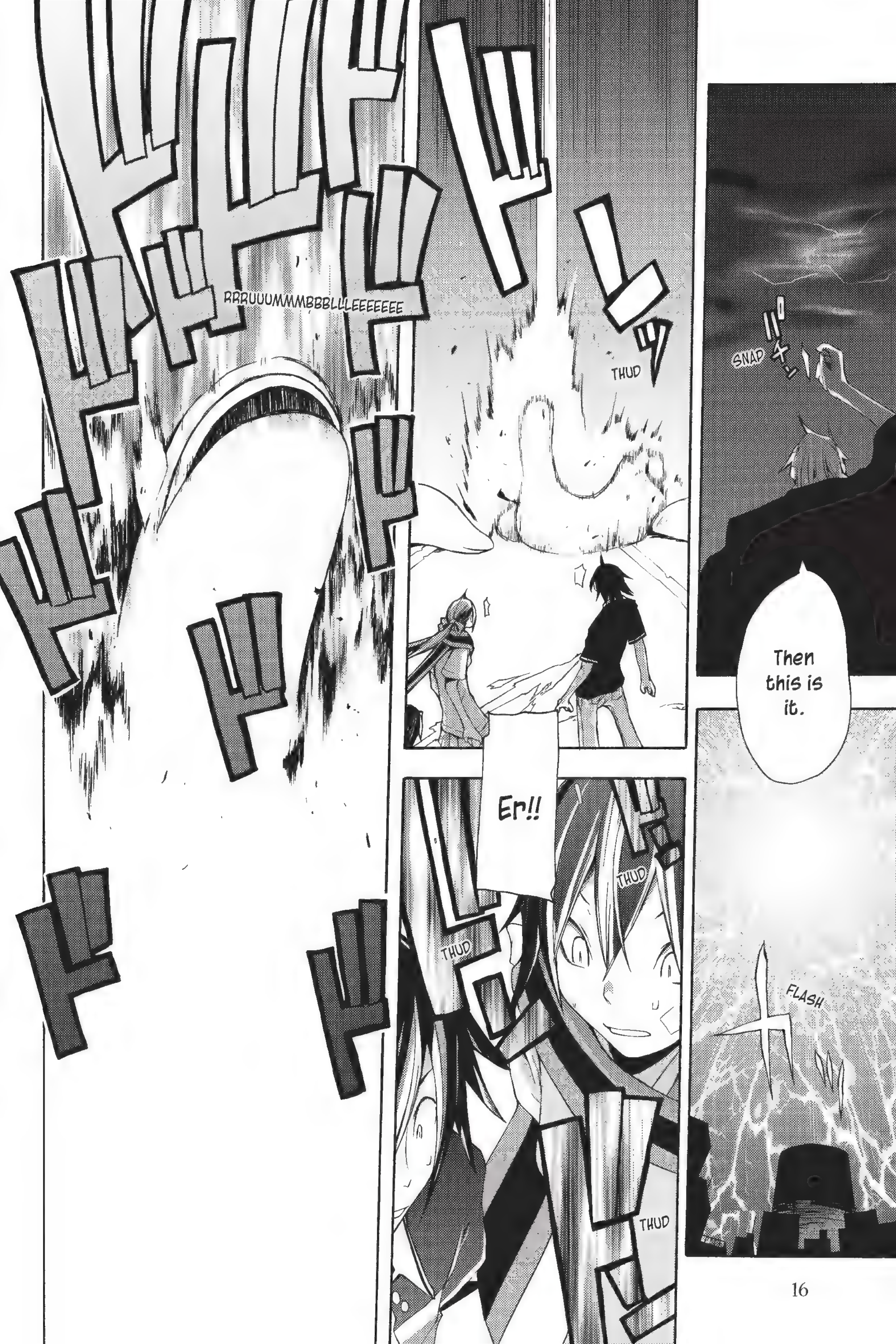

ZWISH
Oh, right.
You only listen to the Mayor.
CLICK
......?
z z z
I was baby-sitting.
You should thank me.
TAP
Kohime!!
!!
Whoa!

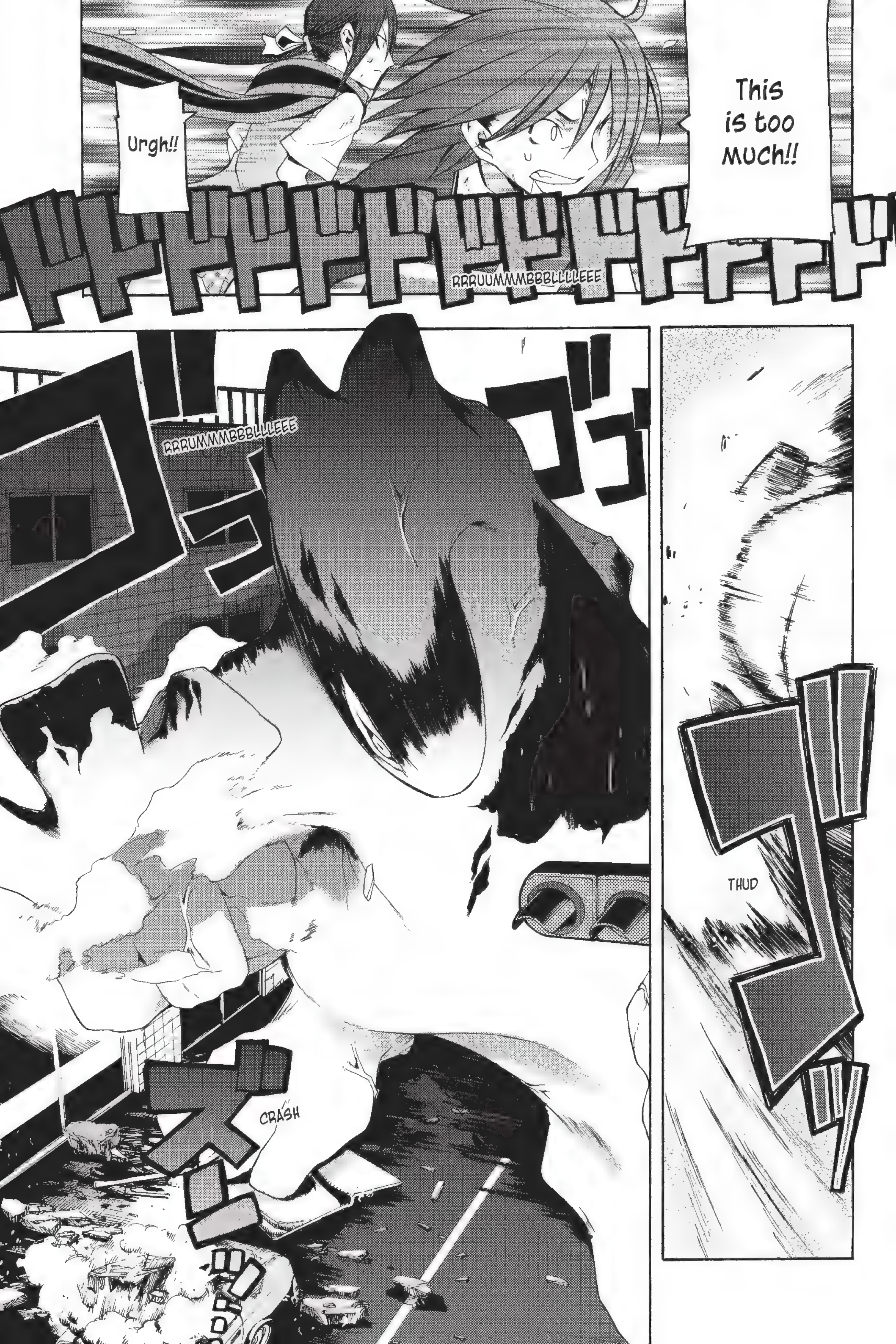

I completely forgot about her!!
Hey!!
What?!
......
Damn it.
Hey, Take!
Take! What are you doing?!
Jinroku-ojii-san...
What the heck?! Is this how you handle your town?!
Is this what you became the mayor for?!
Community Message Board
......
I can't believe you're doing this! Forgetting what your teacher taught you about how to be a mayor!
And in this, of all towns!!
You ungrateful fool!
Urgh...

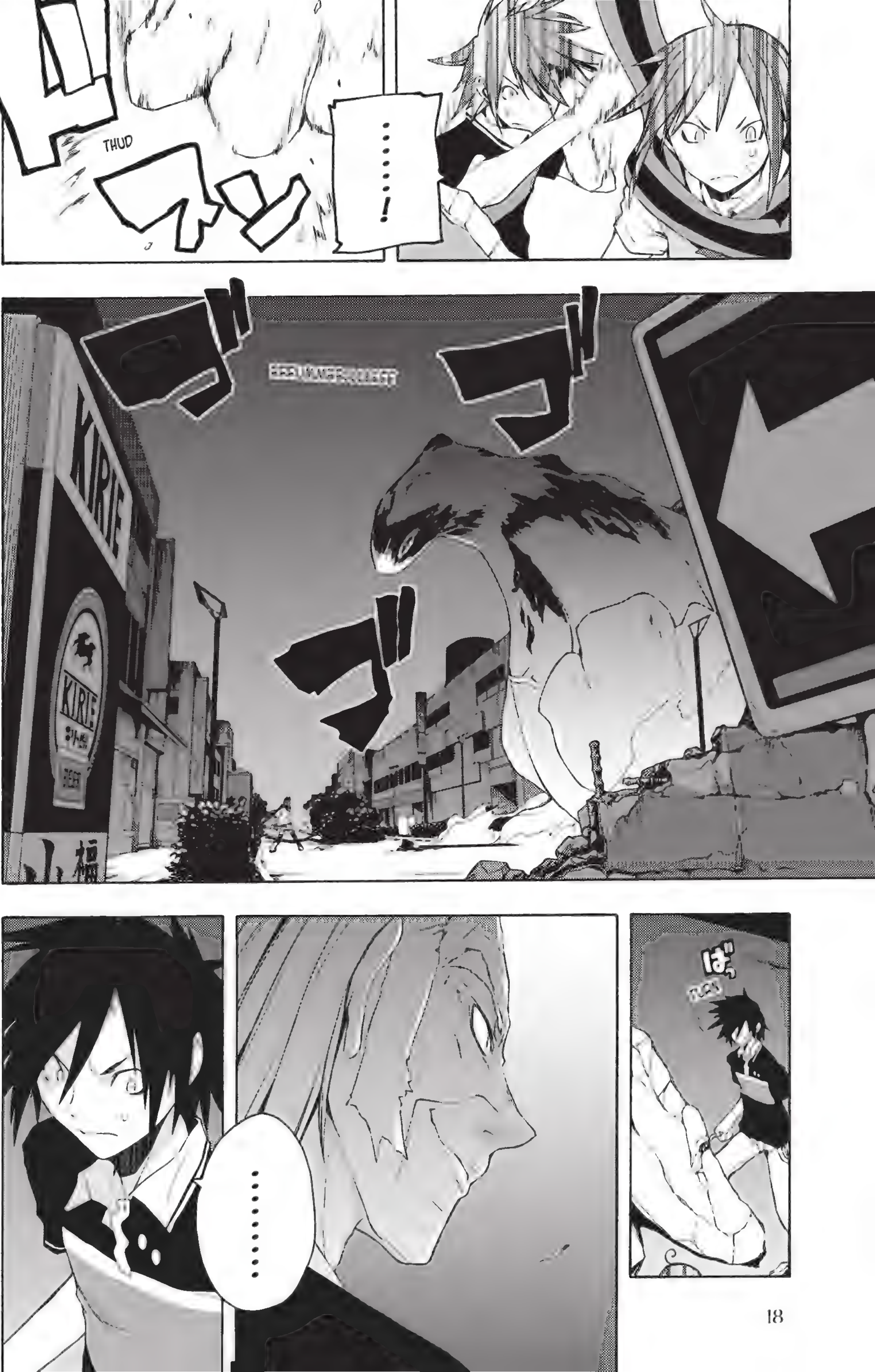

......
Someone who teaches how to be a mayor?
Such a person exists?
Sorry, but save that for later.
It's almost daybreak.
What are you going to do? Depending on what you decide...
You know what?
The situation's different now.
CRACKLE
You better watch out.
A dragon and a demon are angry!

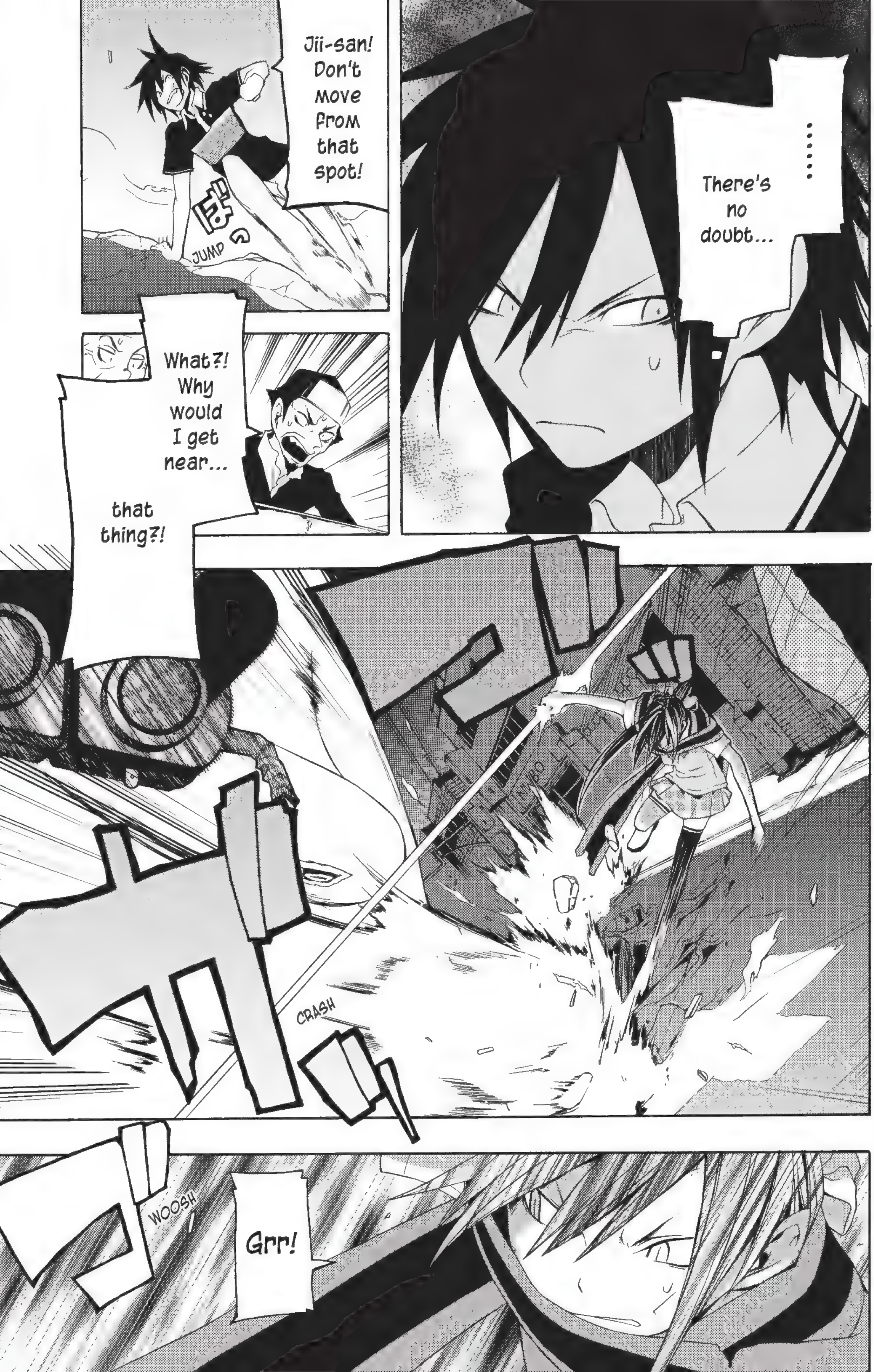

Well, excuse me.
But... is it okay...
...for the mayor to resort to violence?
Hmm.
!
Come to think of it...
Although it's too late...
That can't be helped! Hime, don't let him sway you!
It's too late!
Fine.
From now on...
...I will be...
...a fighting school-girl!!
Actually, I have... PERFECT ATTENDANCE! NO TARDINESS!

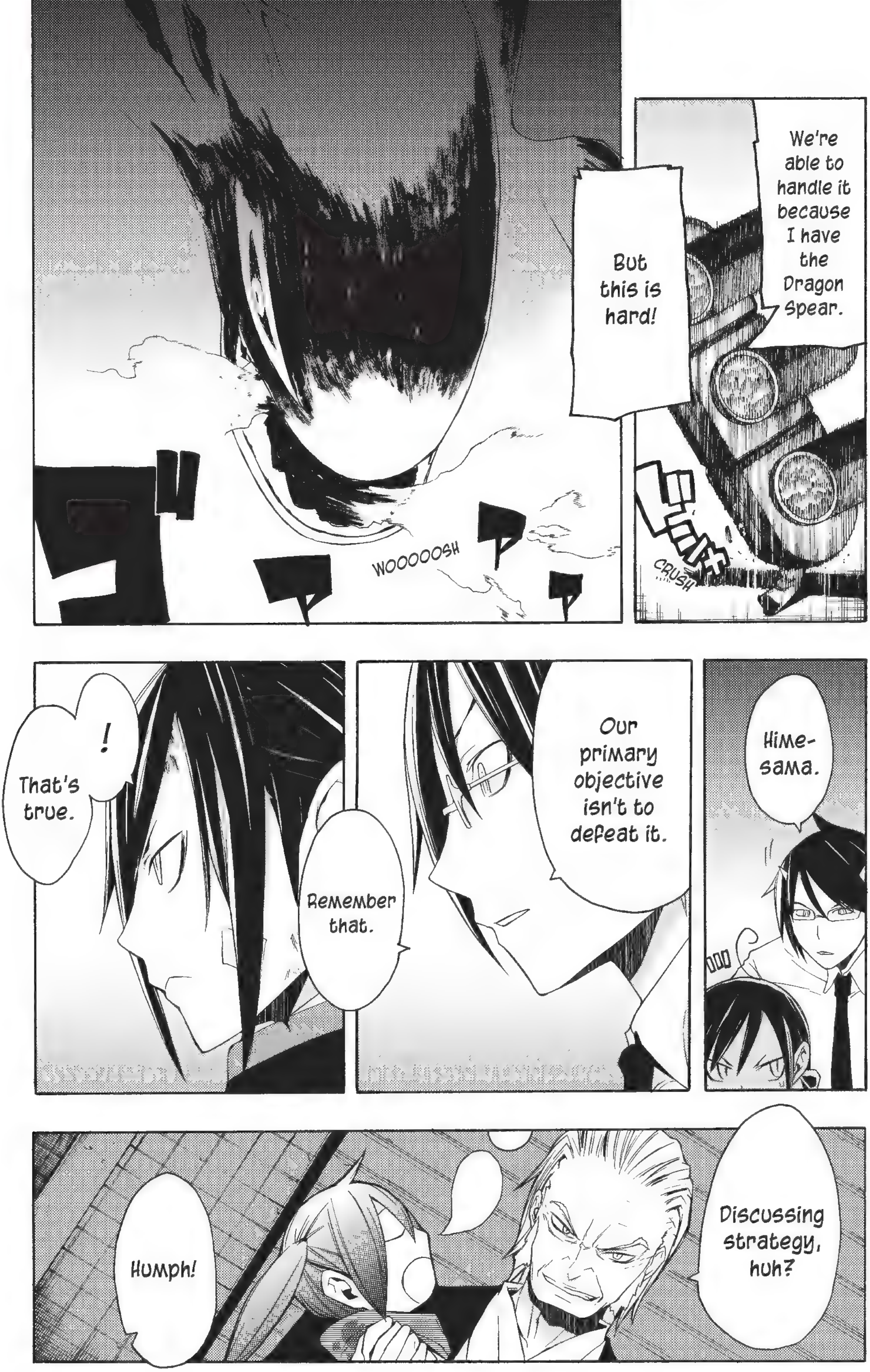

Is...
...that any good?!
PROUD FACE
Why is a high school girl holding such a weapon?!
The Dragon Spear!!
This is just like a big strap, that's all.
Fine.
Then I'm here acting as your friend.
SHINE
You admit you're acting!!
Ha ha.
CRACKLE

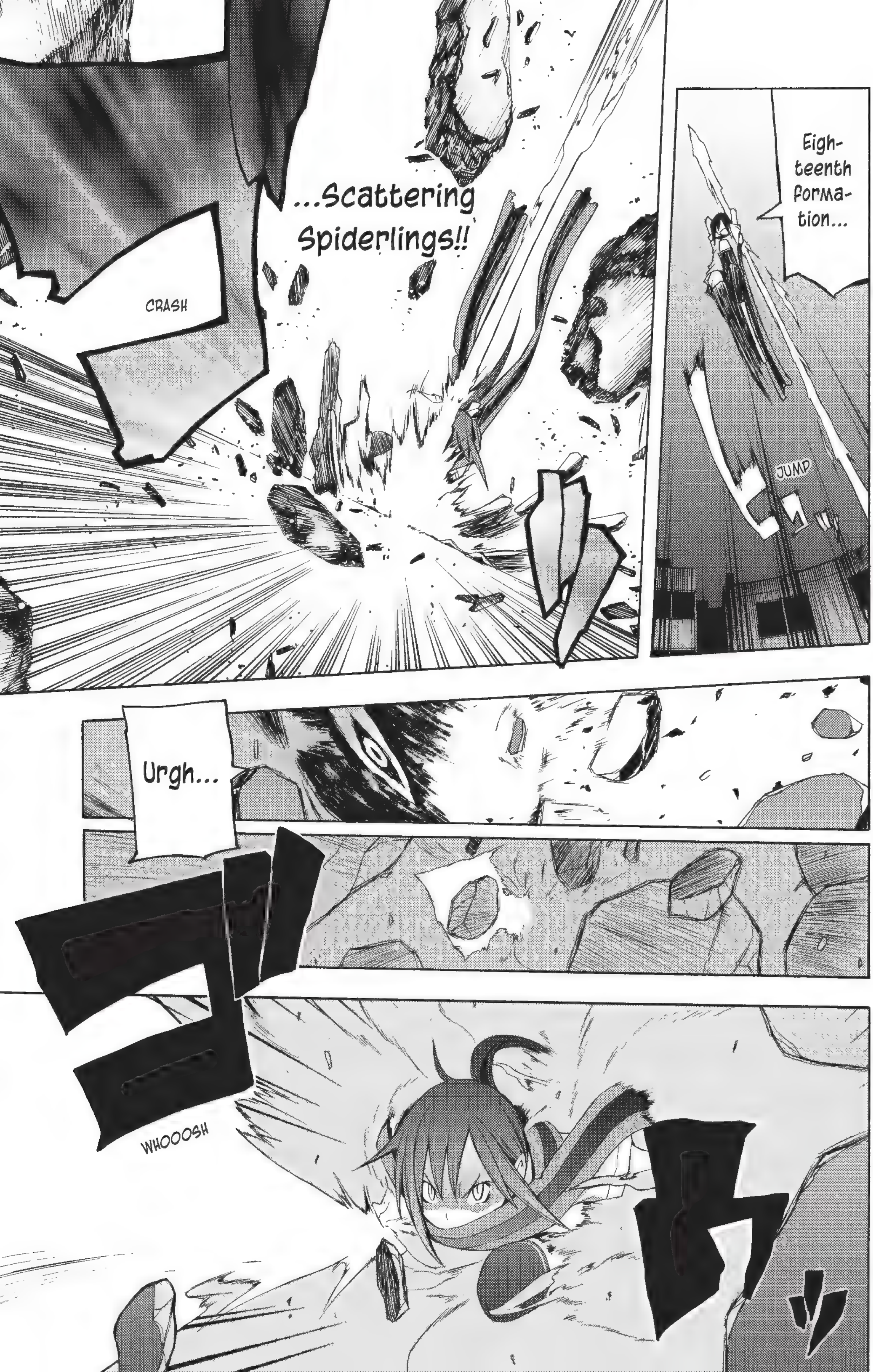

SNAP
Then this is it.
FLASH
THUD
Er!!
THUD
THUD
THUD
RRRUUUMMMBBBLLLEEEEEEE

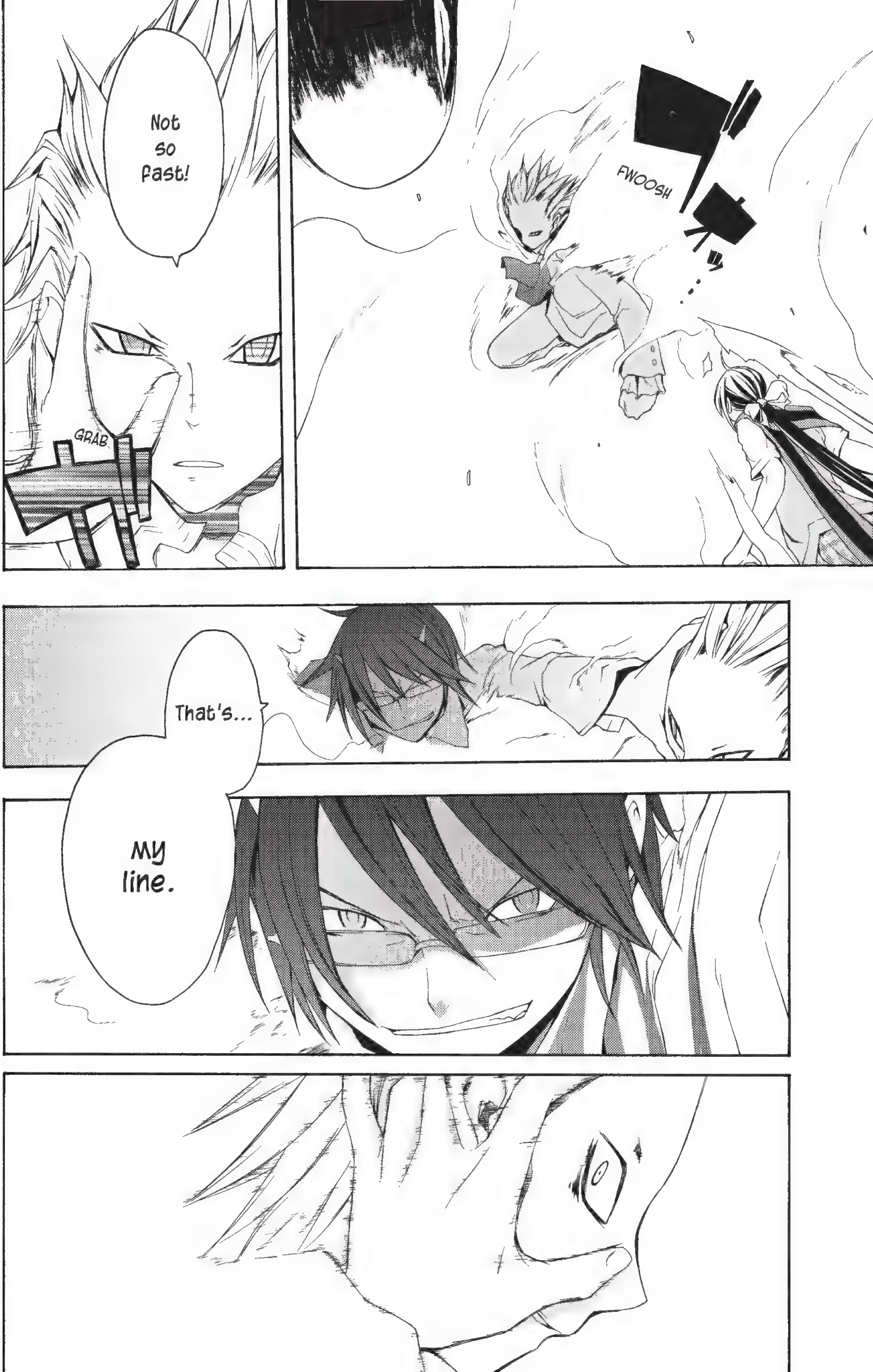

This is too MUCH!!
Urgh!!
RRRUUMMMBBBLLLLEEE
THUD
RRRUMMMBBBLLLEEE
CRASH

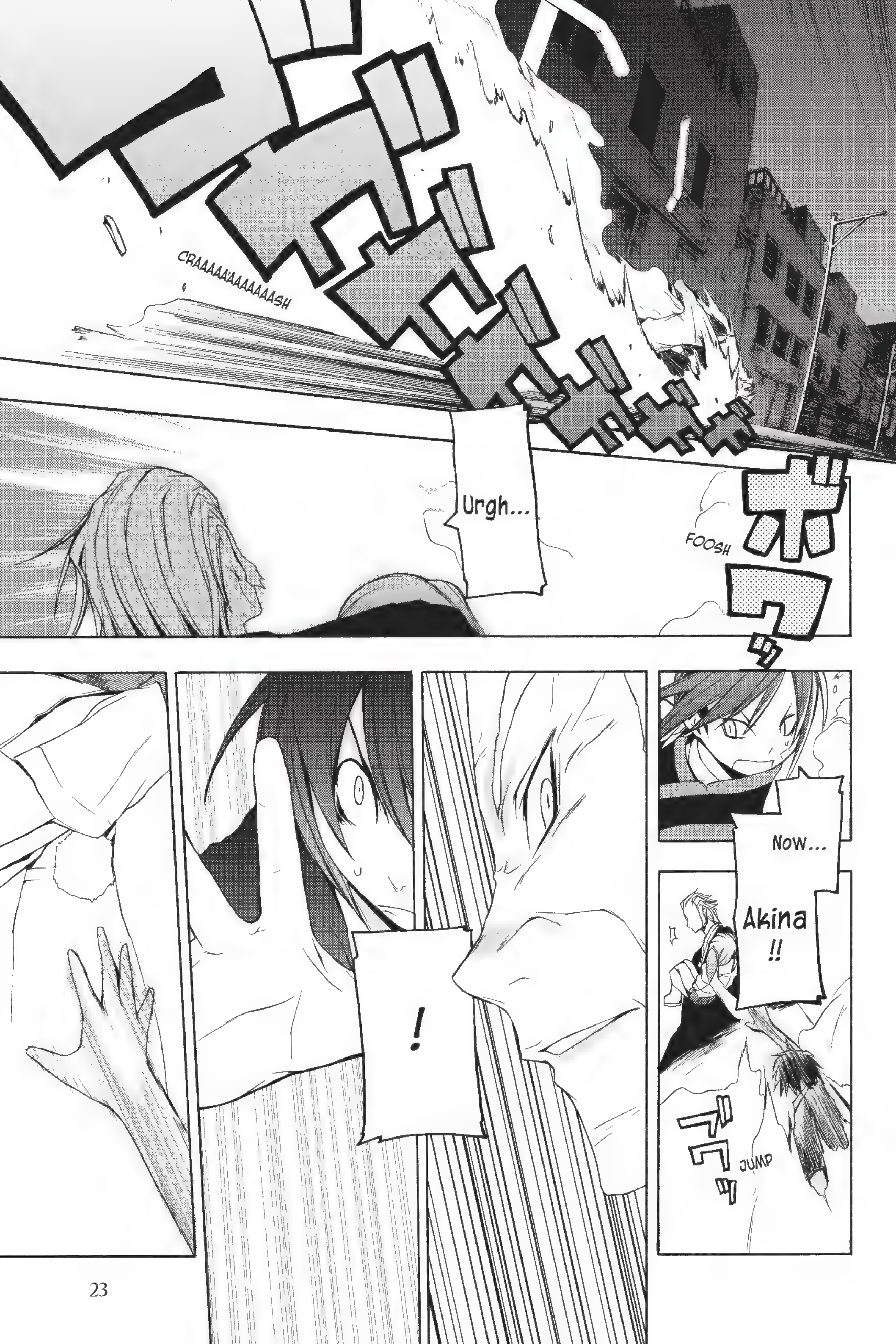

……!
ドスン
THUD
ゴゴゴ
KIRIE
KIRIE
ばっ
……

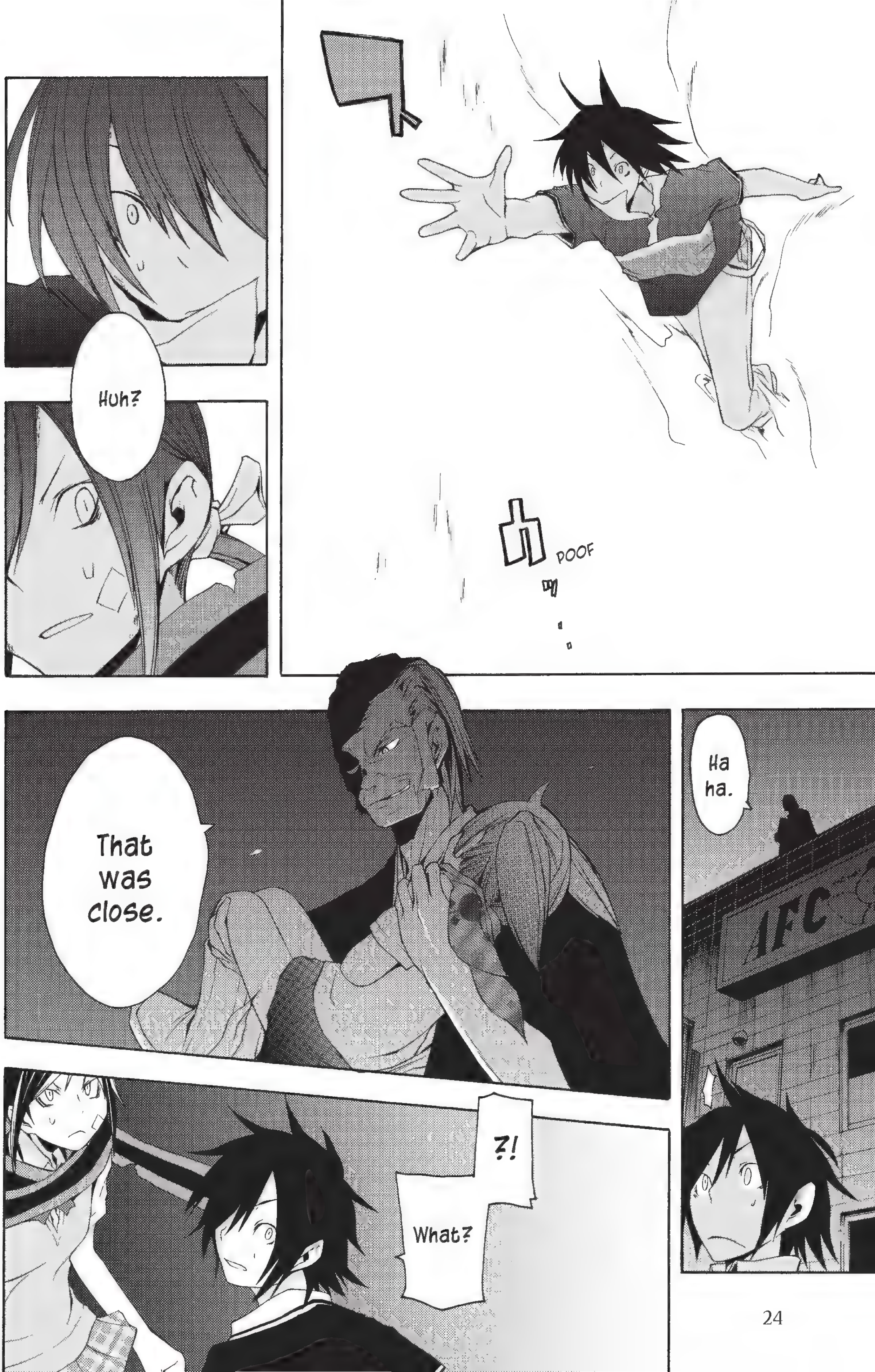

......
There's no doubt...
Jii-san! Don't move from that spot!
JUMP
What?! Why would I get near...
that thing?!
CRASH
WOOSH
Grr!

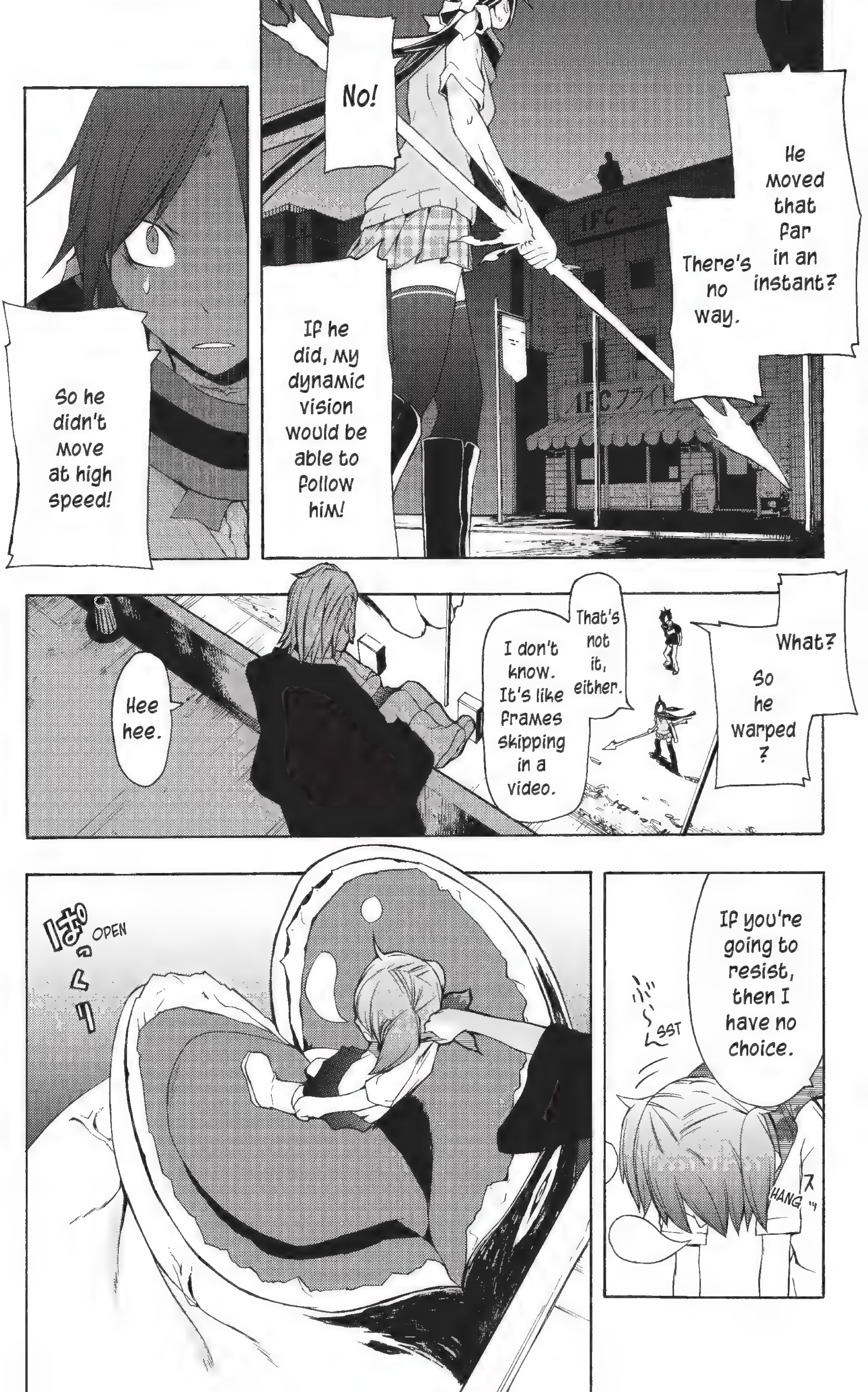

We're able to handle it because I have the Dragon Spear.
But this is hard!
CRUSH
WOOOOOSH
Hime-sama.
Our primary objective isn't to defeat it.
Remember that.
!
That's true.
Discussing strategy, huh?
Humph!

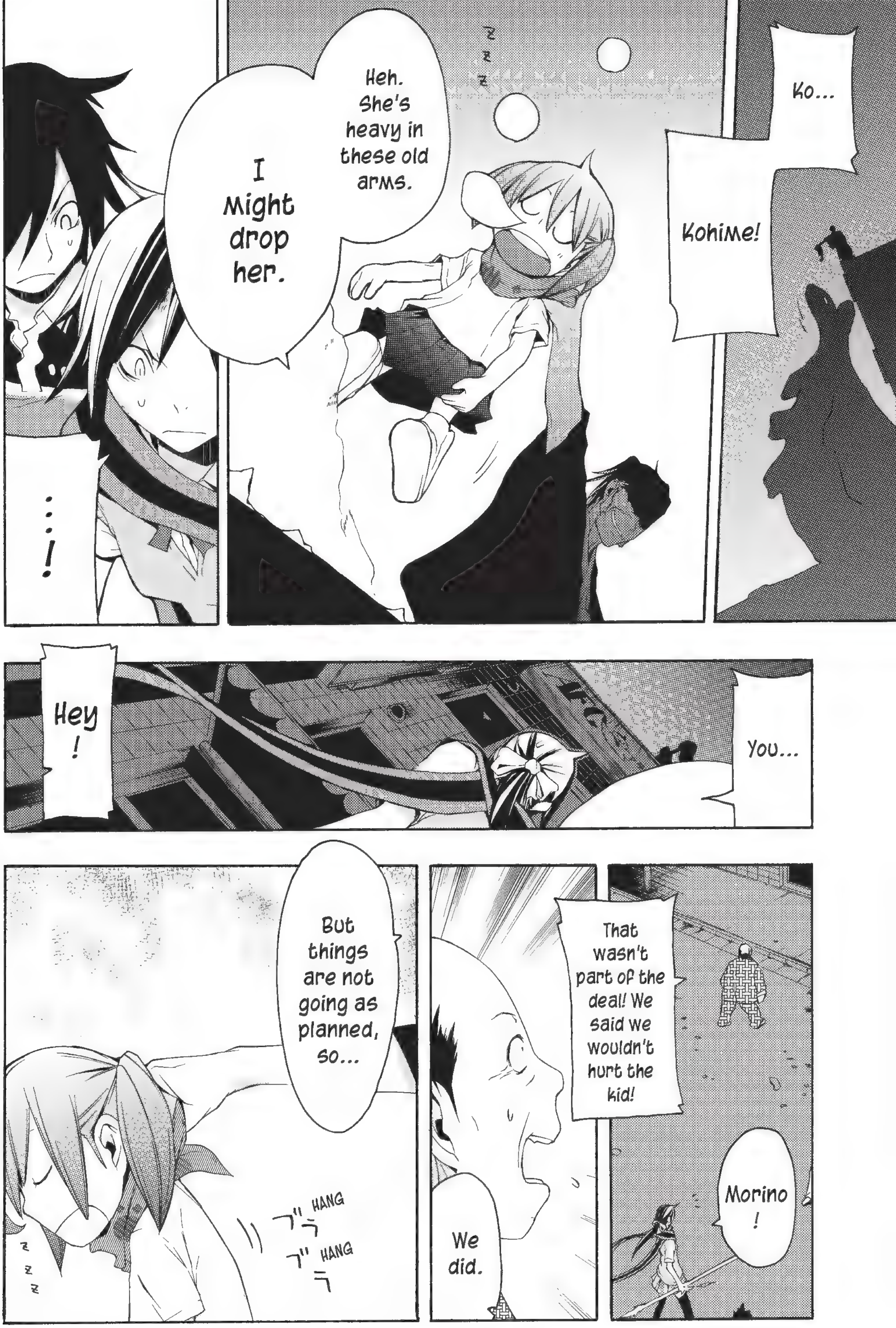

Eighteenth formation...
JUMP
...Scattering Spiderlings!!
CRASH
Urgh...
WHOOOSH

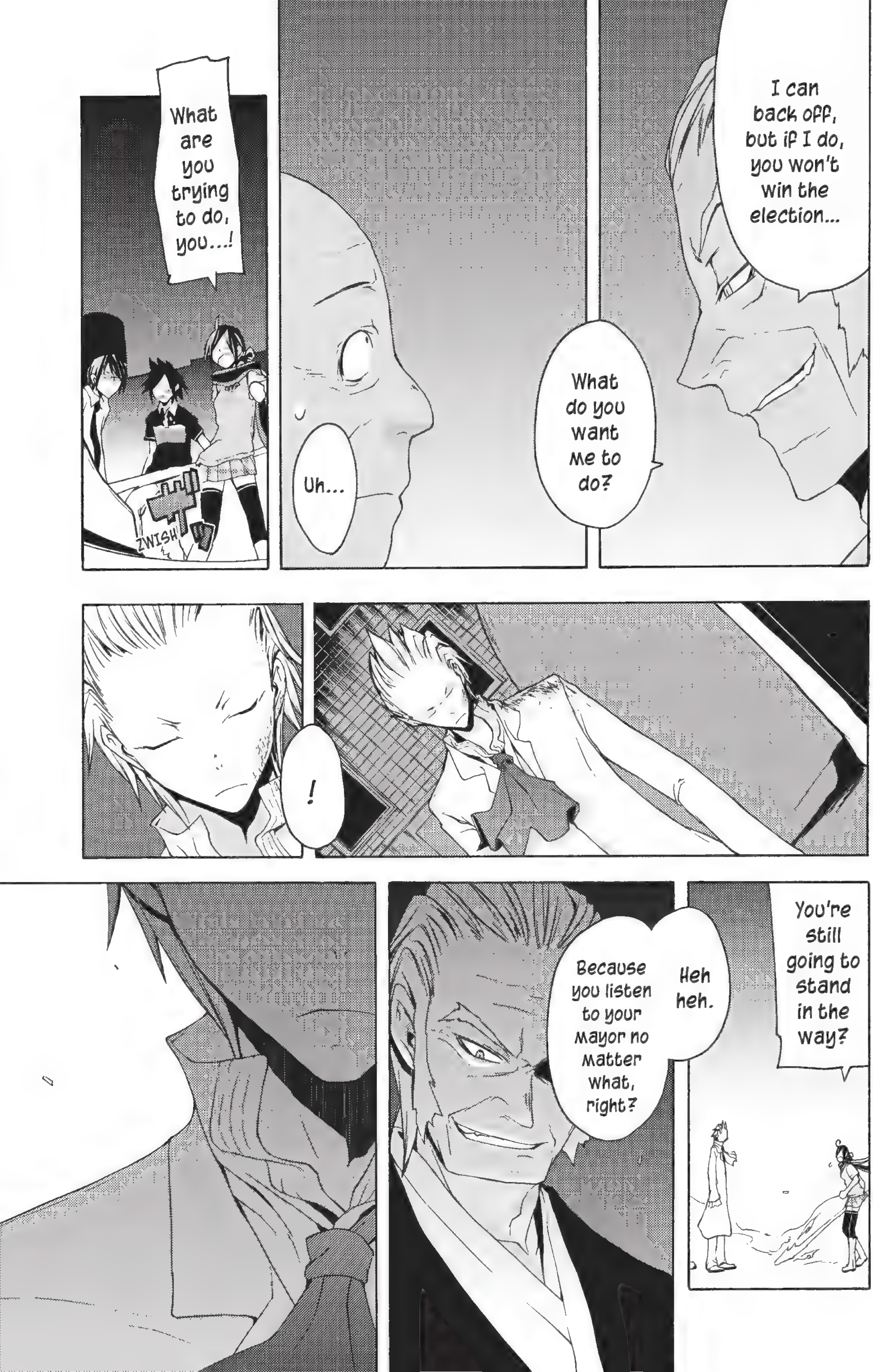

FWOOSH
Not so fast!
GRAB
That's...
My line.

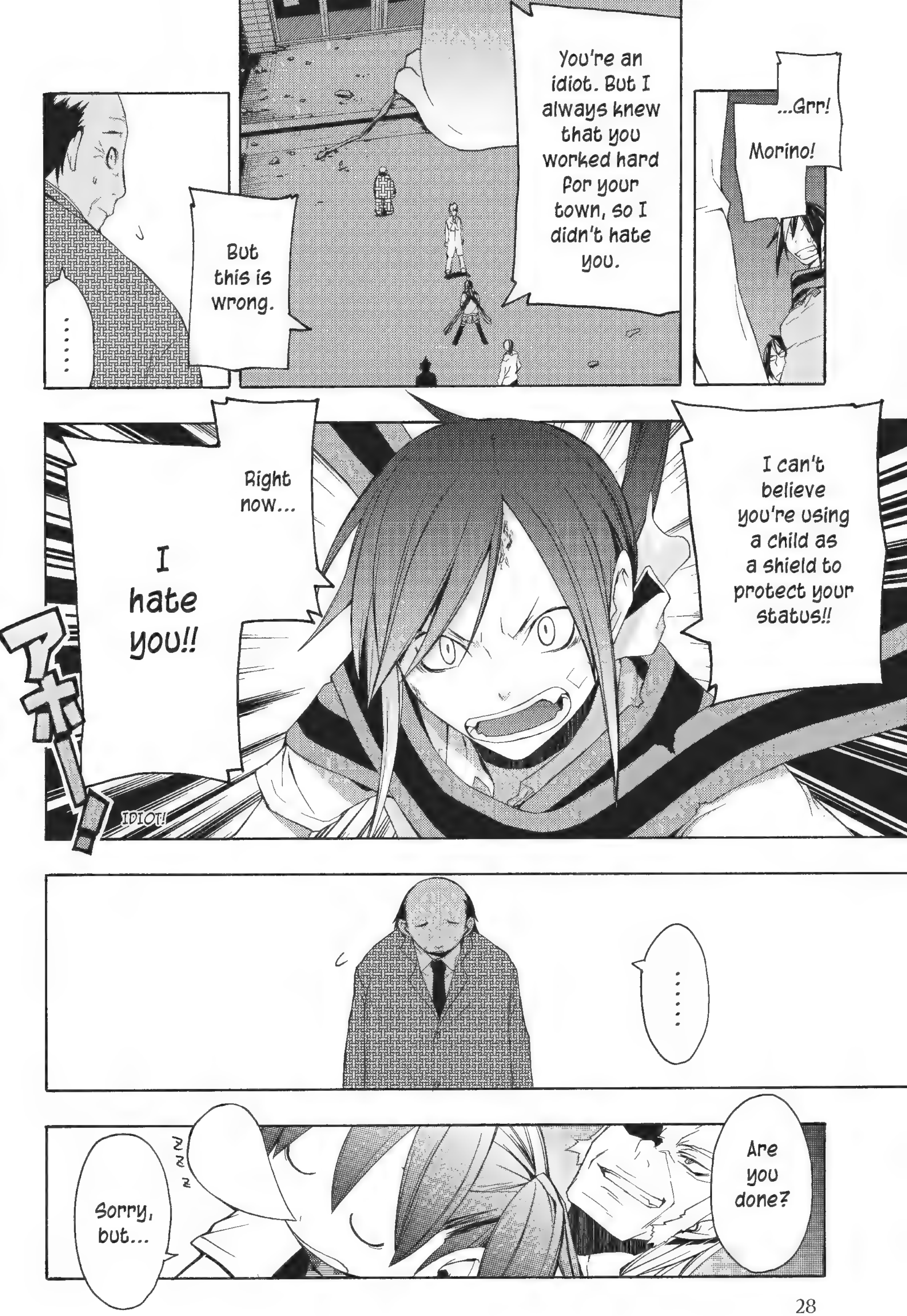

CRAAAAAAAAAAAASH
FOOSH
ボワッ
Urgh...
Now...
Akina!!
ダンッ
JUMP
!

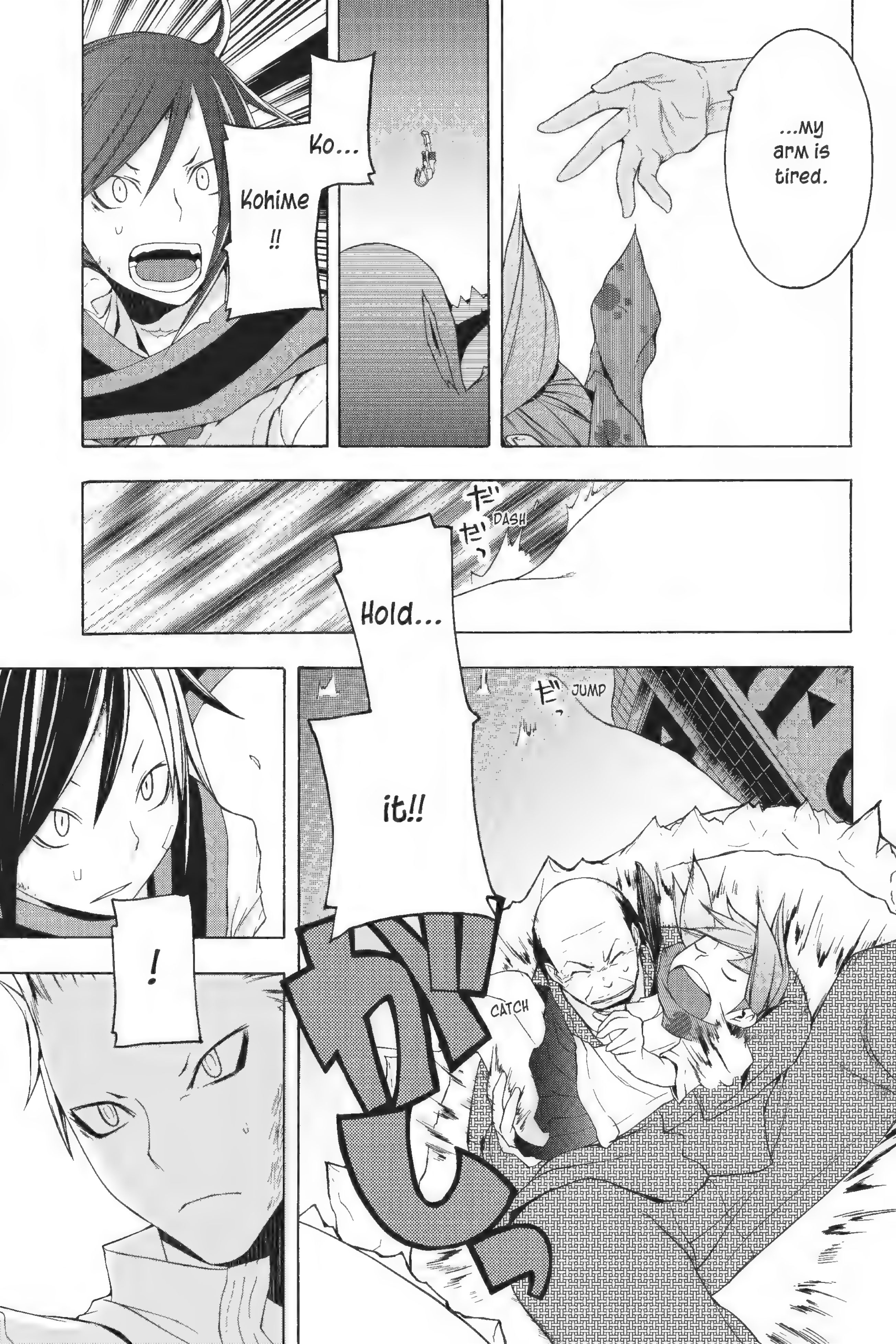

POOF
Huh?
Ha ha.
That was close.
?!
What?
AFC

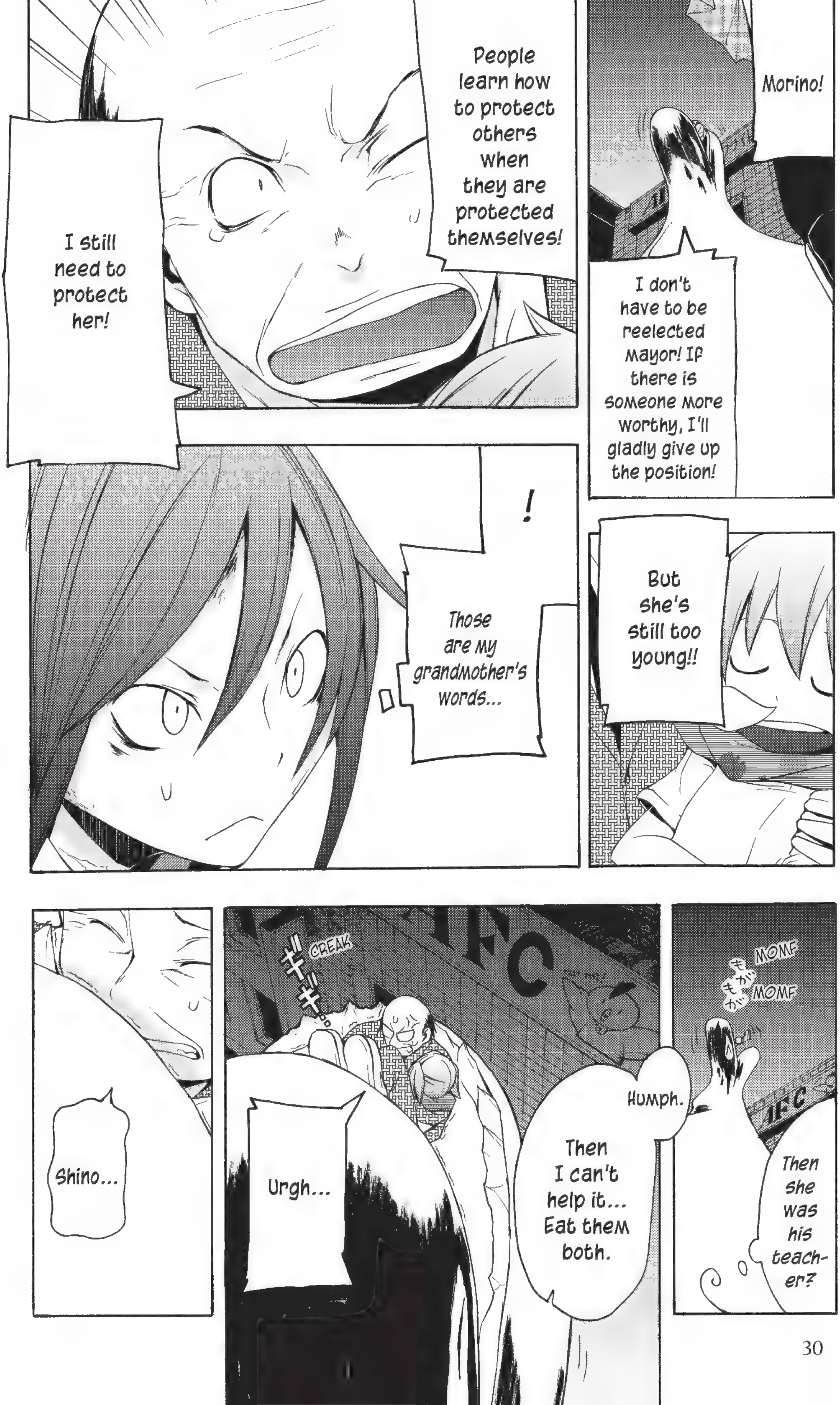

He moved that far in an instant?
There's no way.
No!
If he did, my dynamic vision would be able to follow him!
So he didn't move at high speed!
What?
So he warped?
That's not it, either.
I don't know. It's like frames skipping in a video.
Hee hee.
If you're going to resist, then I have no choice.
ぶ SST
ス HANG
ぱっくり OPEN

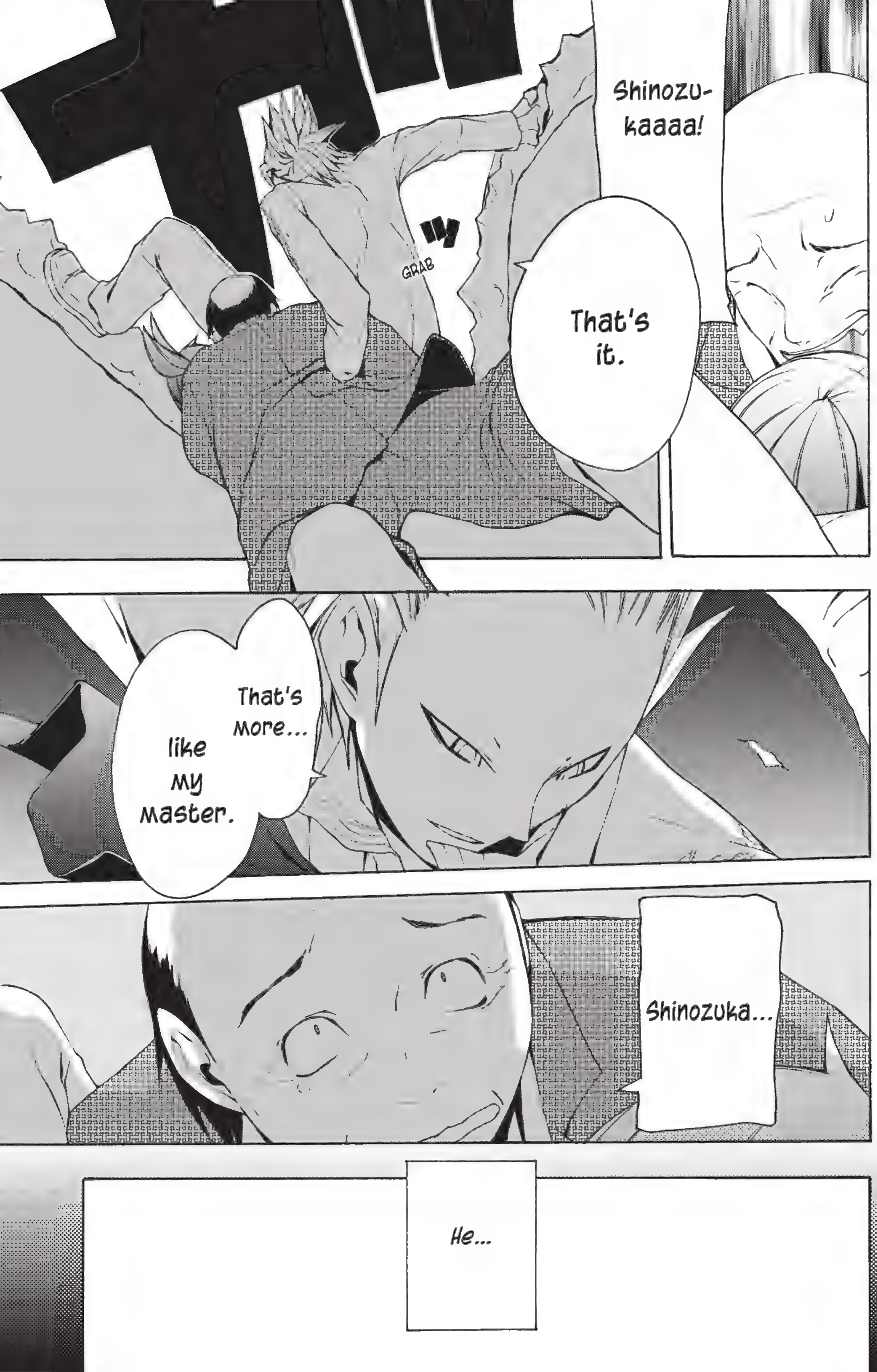

Ko...
Kohime!
Heh. She's heavy in these old arms.
I might drop her.
z z z
...!
You...
Hey!
That wasn't part of the deal! We said we wouldn't hurt the kid!
Morino!
We did.
But things are not going as planned, so...
HANG
HANG
z z z

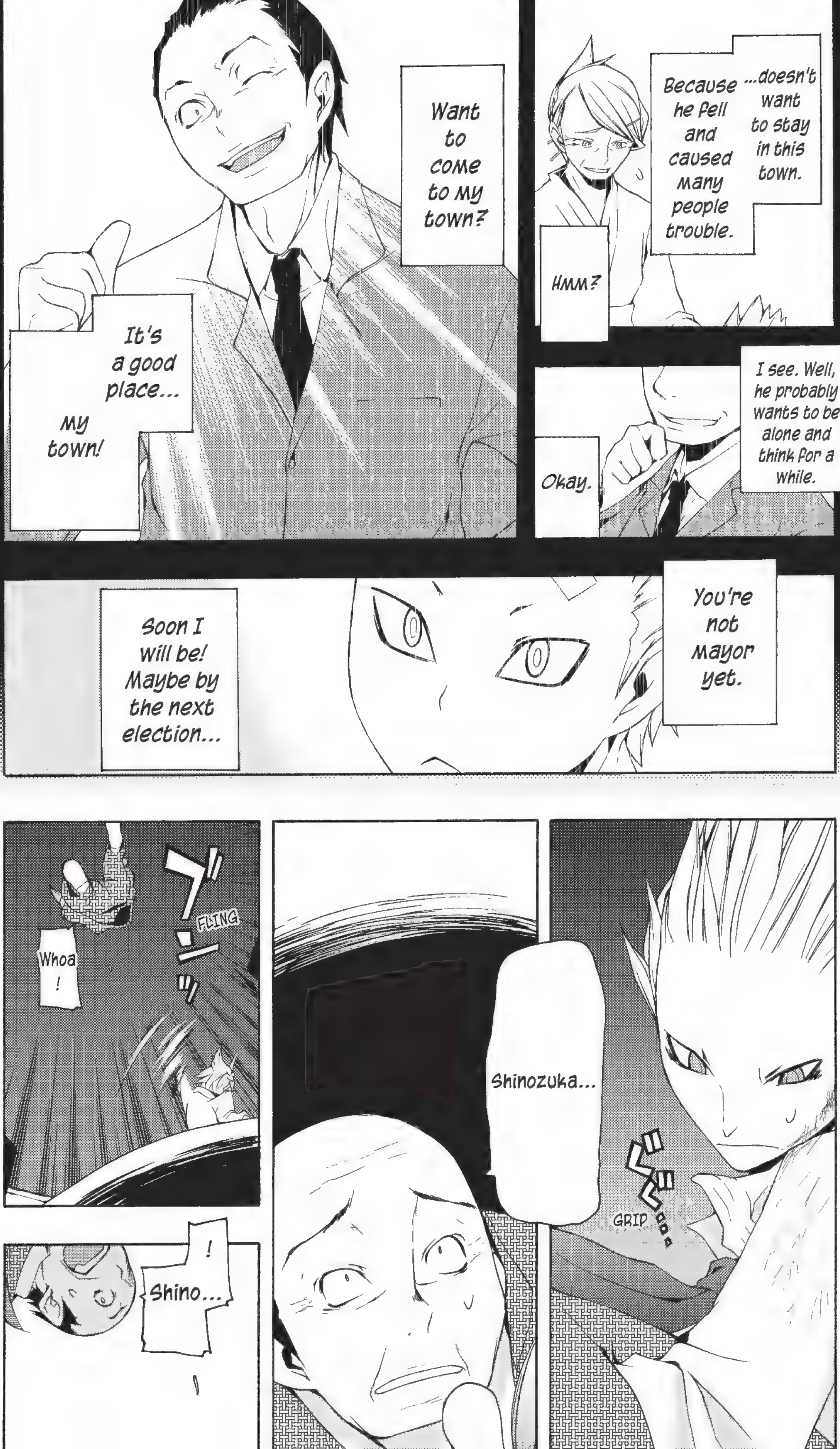

I can back off, but if I do, you won't win the election...
What do you want me to do?
Uh...
What are you trying to do, you...!
ZWISH
!
You're still going to stand in the way?
Heh heh.
Because you listen to your mayor no matter what, right?

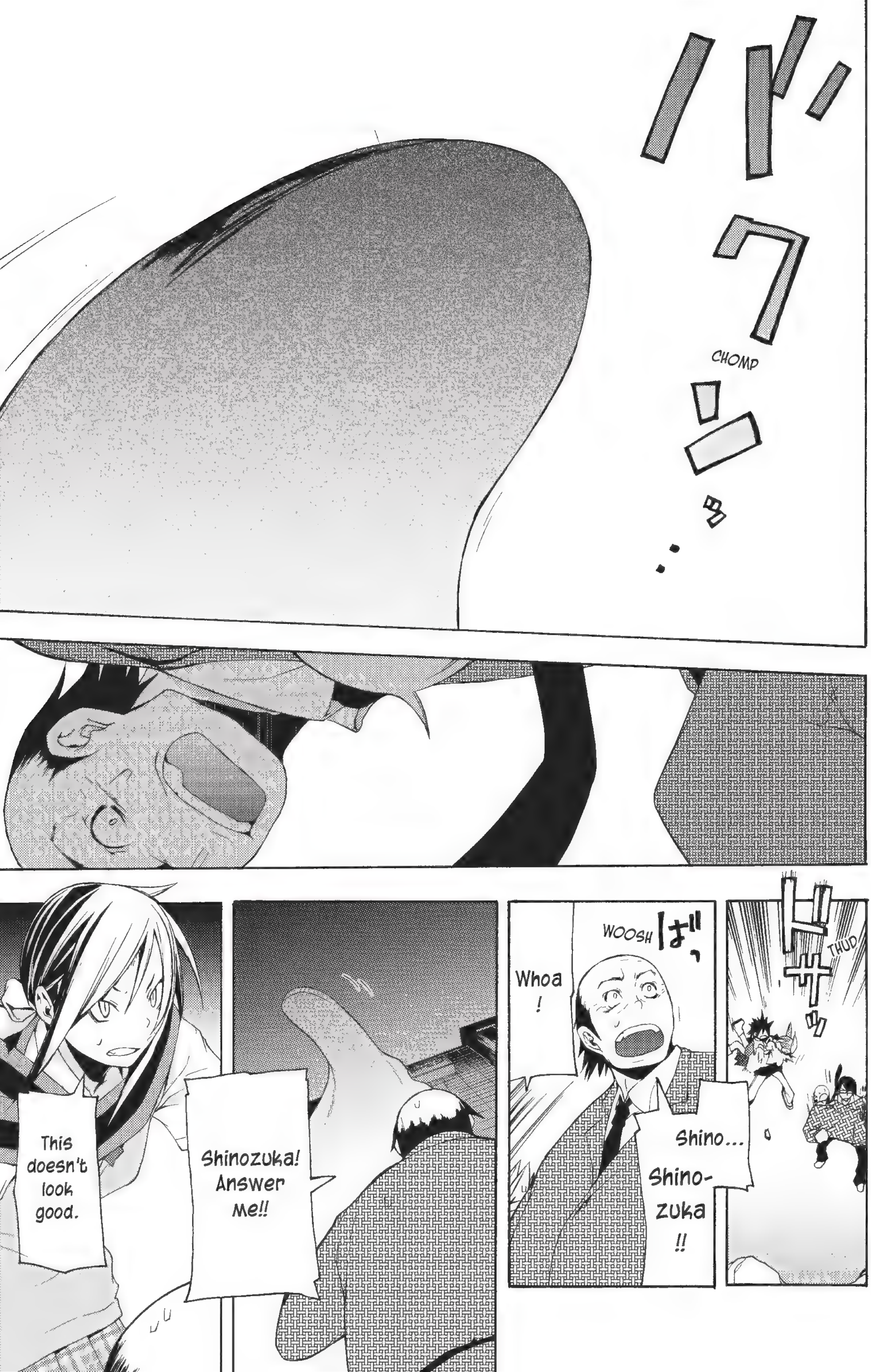

...Grr!
Morino!
You're an idiot. But I always knew that you worked hard for your town, so I didn't hate you.
But this is wrong.
......
I can't believe you're using a child as a shield to protect your status!!
Right now...
I hate you!!
アホー!!
IDIOT!
......
Are you done?
Sorry, but...

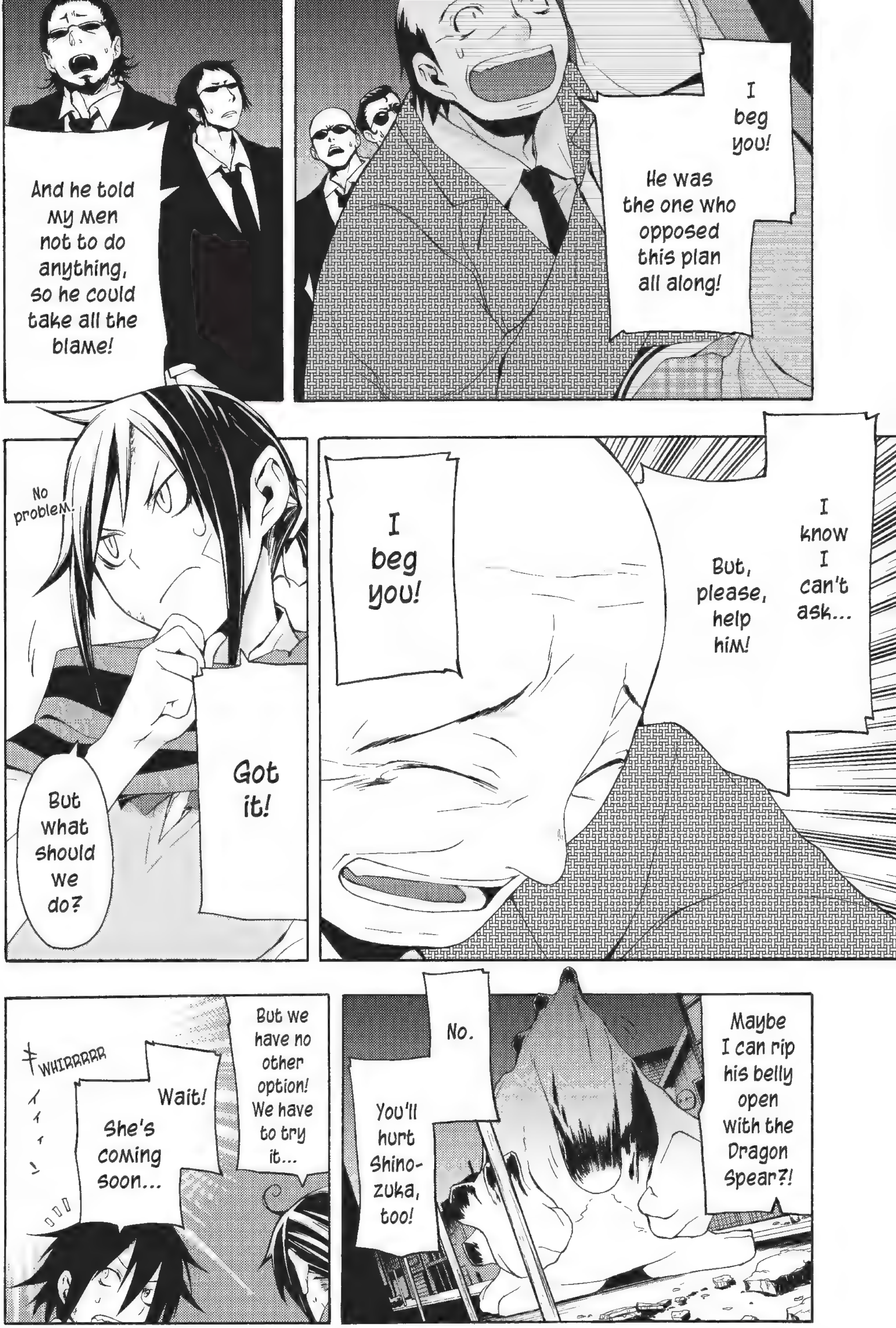

...my arm is tired.
Ko...
Kohime!!
だ、だ、
DASH
Hold... it!!
だ、
JUMP
わしっ
CATCH
!

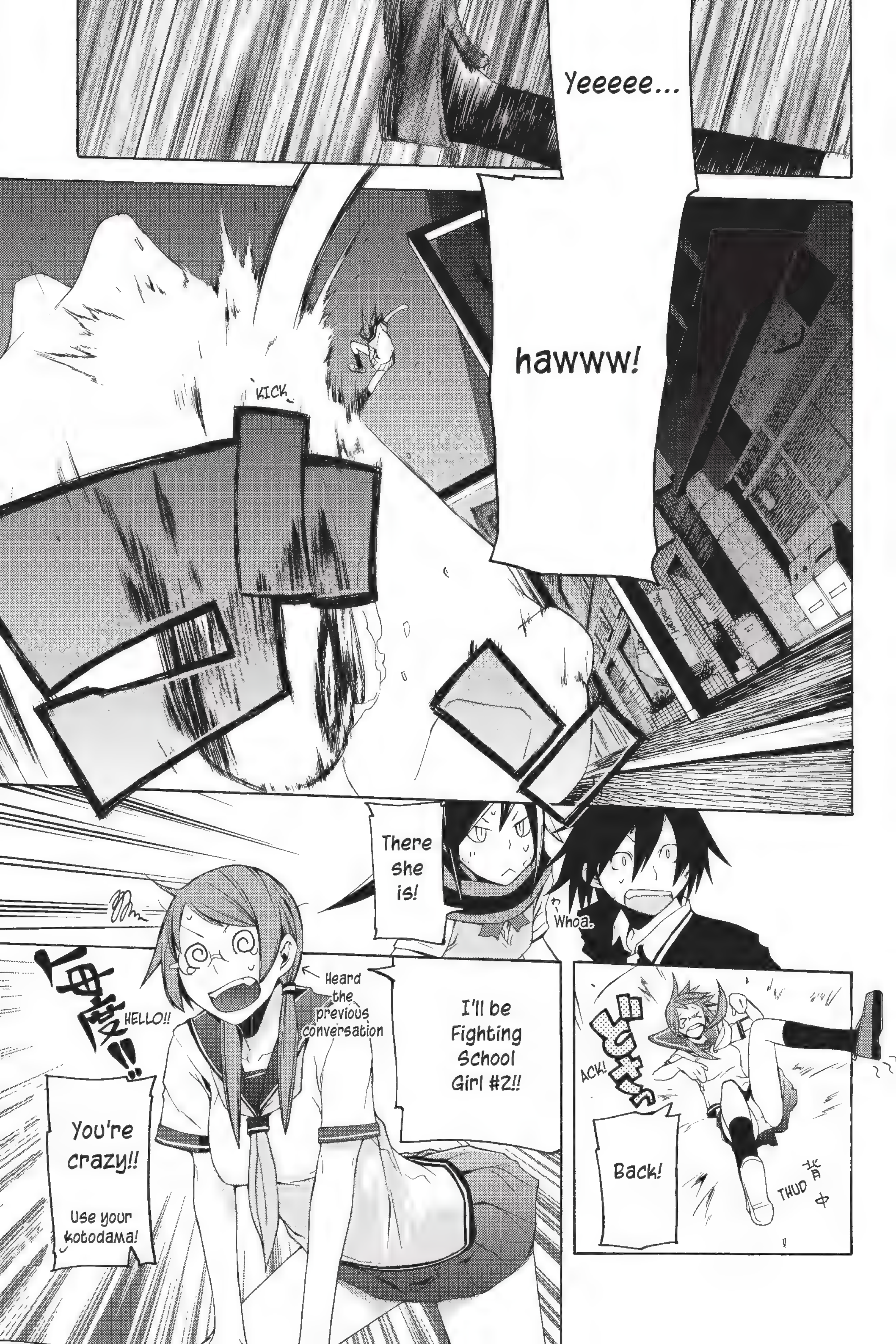

Morino!
I don't have to be reelected Mayor! If there is someone more worthy, I'll gladly give up the position!
People learn how to protect others when they are protected themselves!
I still need to protect her!
But she's still too young!!
!
Those are my grandmother's words...
もが もが MOMF MOMF
Then she was his teacher?
Humph.
Then I can't help it... Eat them both.
ギギギ CREAK
Urgh...
Shino...

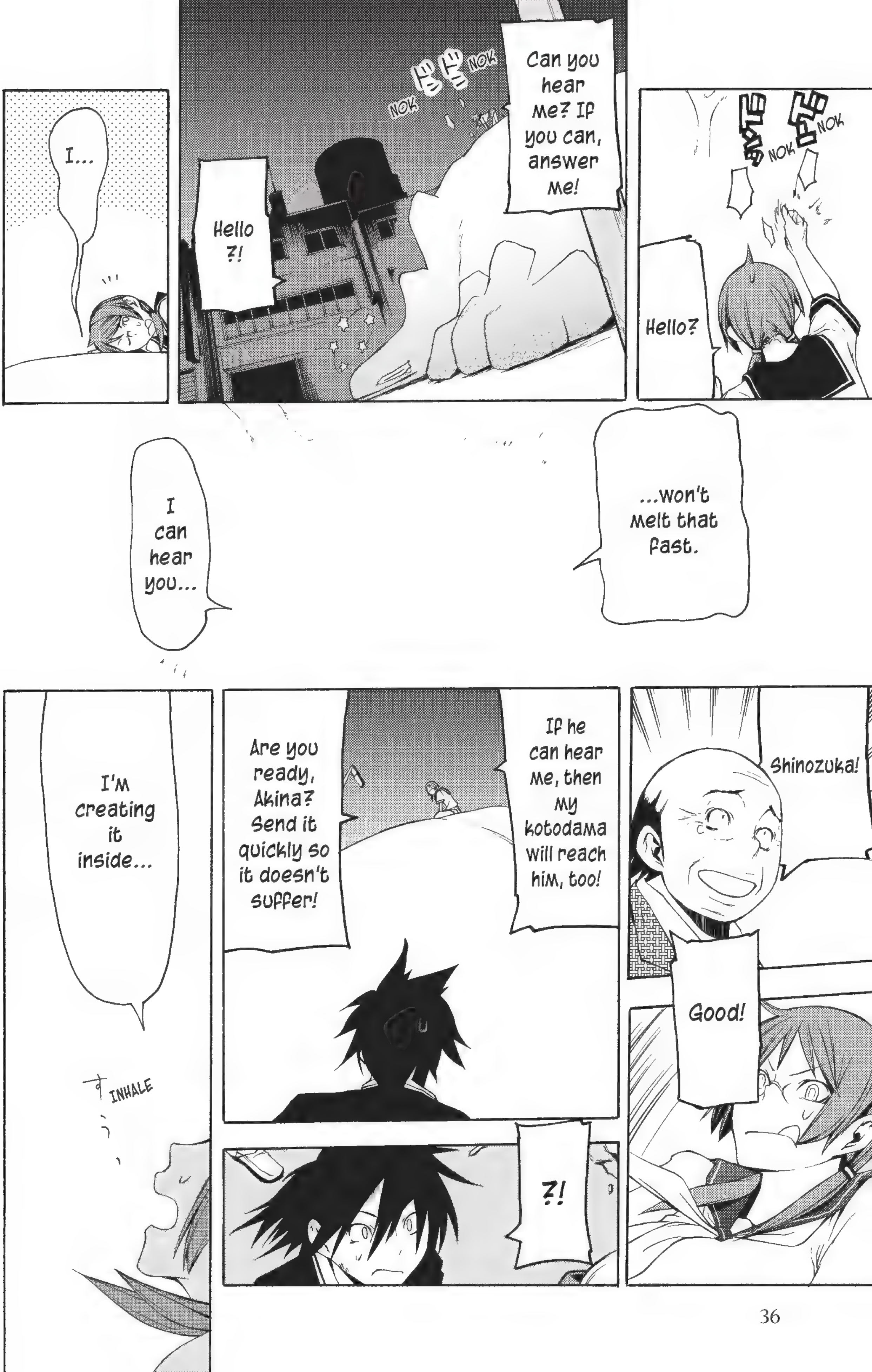

Shinozu-kaaaa!
That's it.
GRAB
That's more... like my master.
Shinozuka...
He...

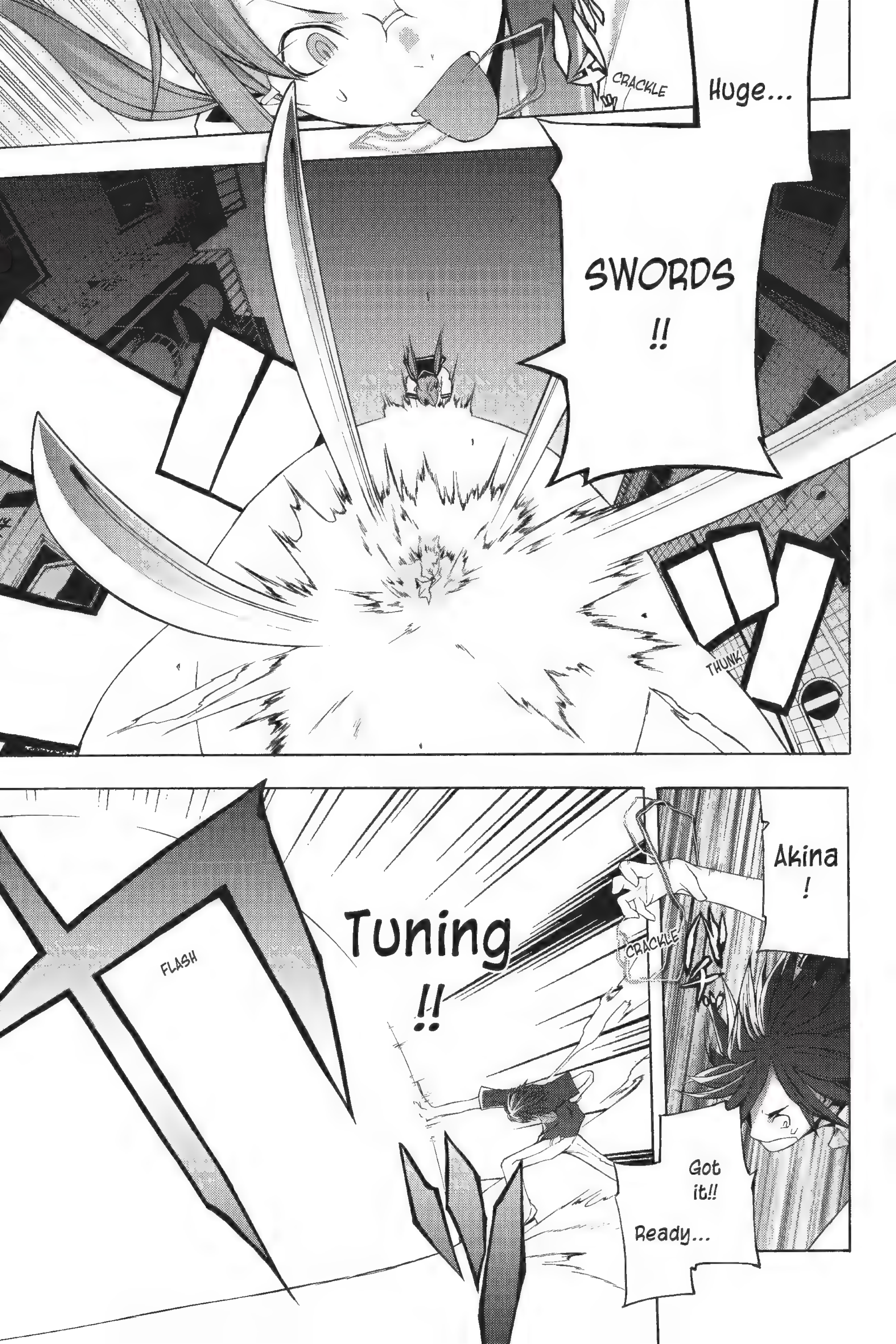

...doesn't want to stay in this town.
Because he fell and caused many people trouble.
Hmm?
I see. Well, he probably wants to be alone and think for a while.
Okay.
Want to come to my town?
It's a good place... My town!
You're not mayor yet.
Soon I will be! Maybe by the next election...
Shinozuka...
GRIP
FLING
Whoa!
!
Shino...

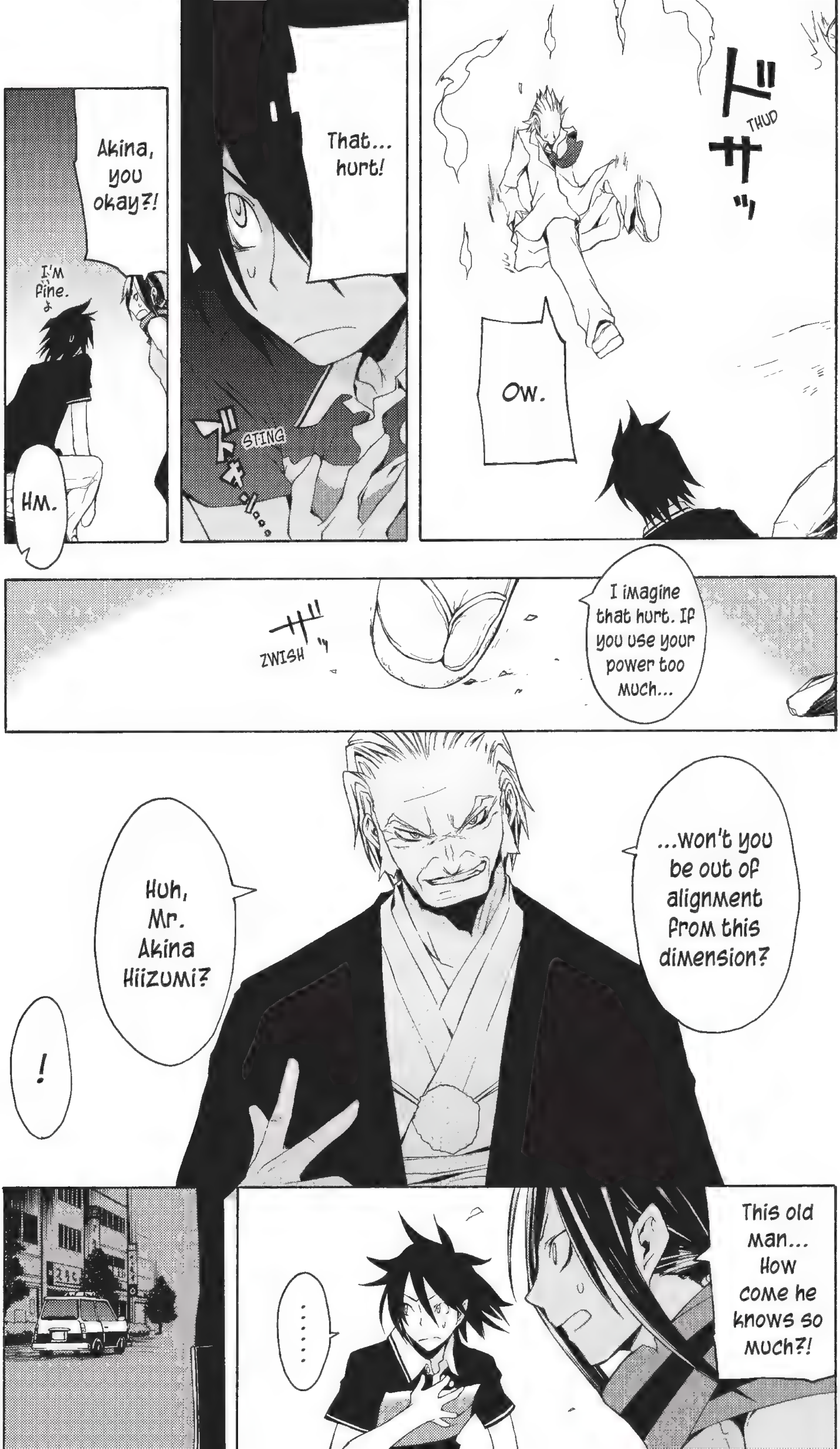

バクンッ…
CHOMP
ドサッ
THUD
ばっ
WOOSH
Whoa!
Shino... Shino-zuka!!
Shinozuka! Answer Me!!
This doesn't look good.

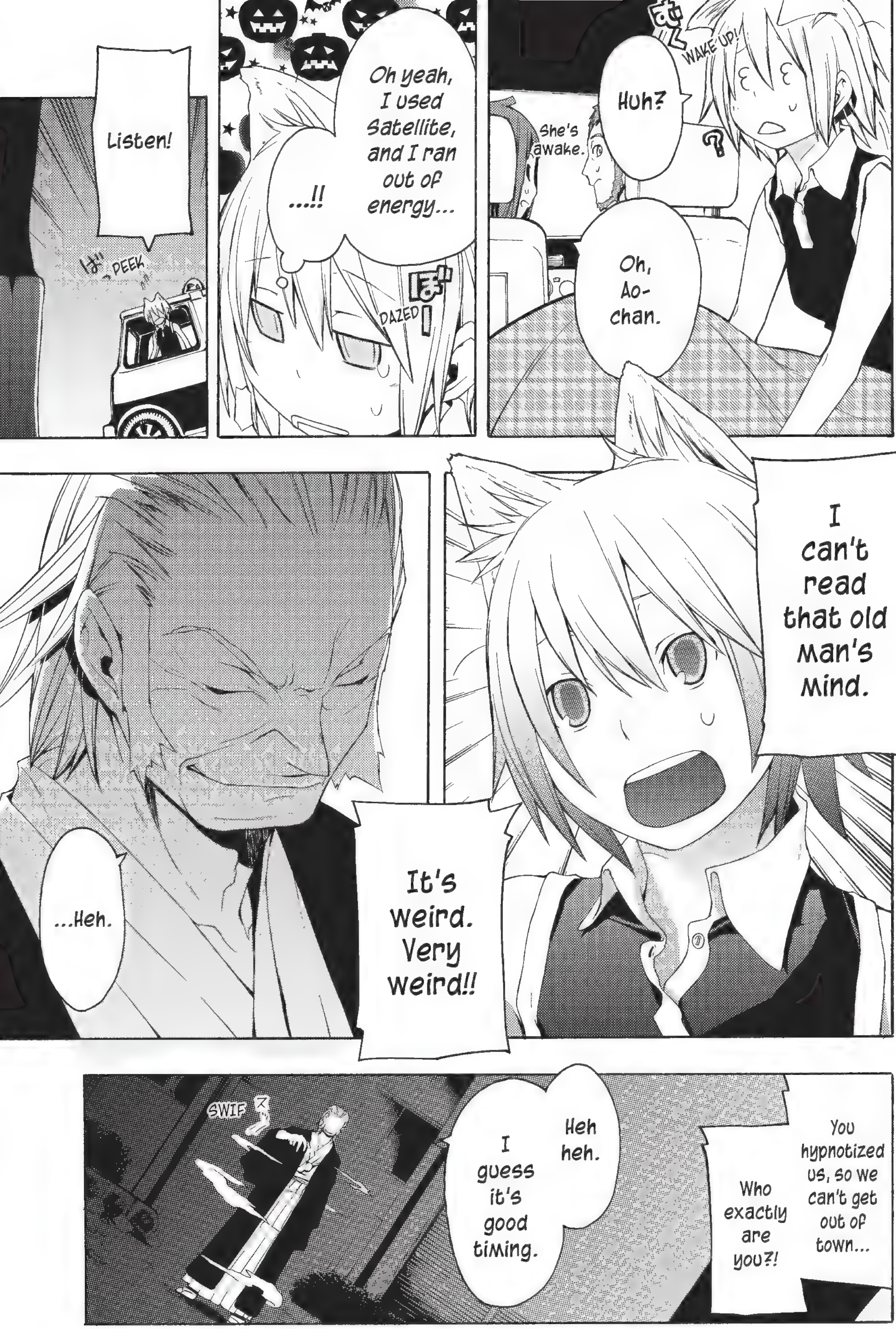

I beg you!
He was the one who opposed this plan all along!
And he told my men not to do anything, so he could take all the blame!
I know I can't ask...
But, please, help him!
I beg you!
No problem.
Got it!
But what should we do?
Maybe I can rip his belly open with the Dragon Spear?!
No.
You'll hurt Shinozuka, too!
But we have no other option! We have to try it...
Wait!
She's coming soon...
WHIRRRRR

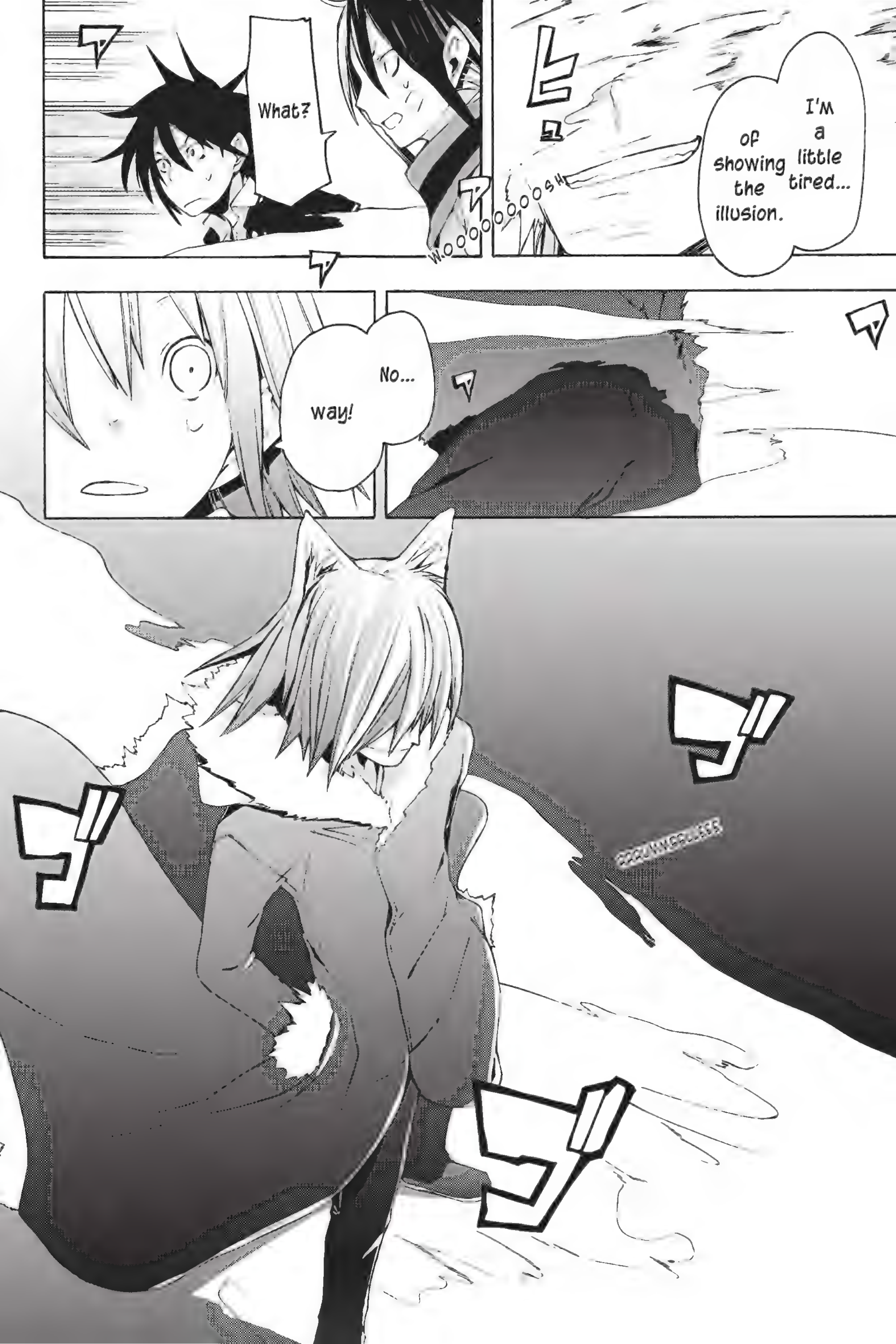

Yeeeee...
hawww!
KICK
わ Whoa.
There she is!
Back!
ACK!
THUD 背中
I'll be Fighting School Girl #2!!
Heard the previous conversation
毎度!! HELLO!!
You're crazy!!
Use your kotodama!

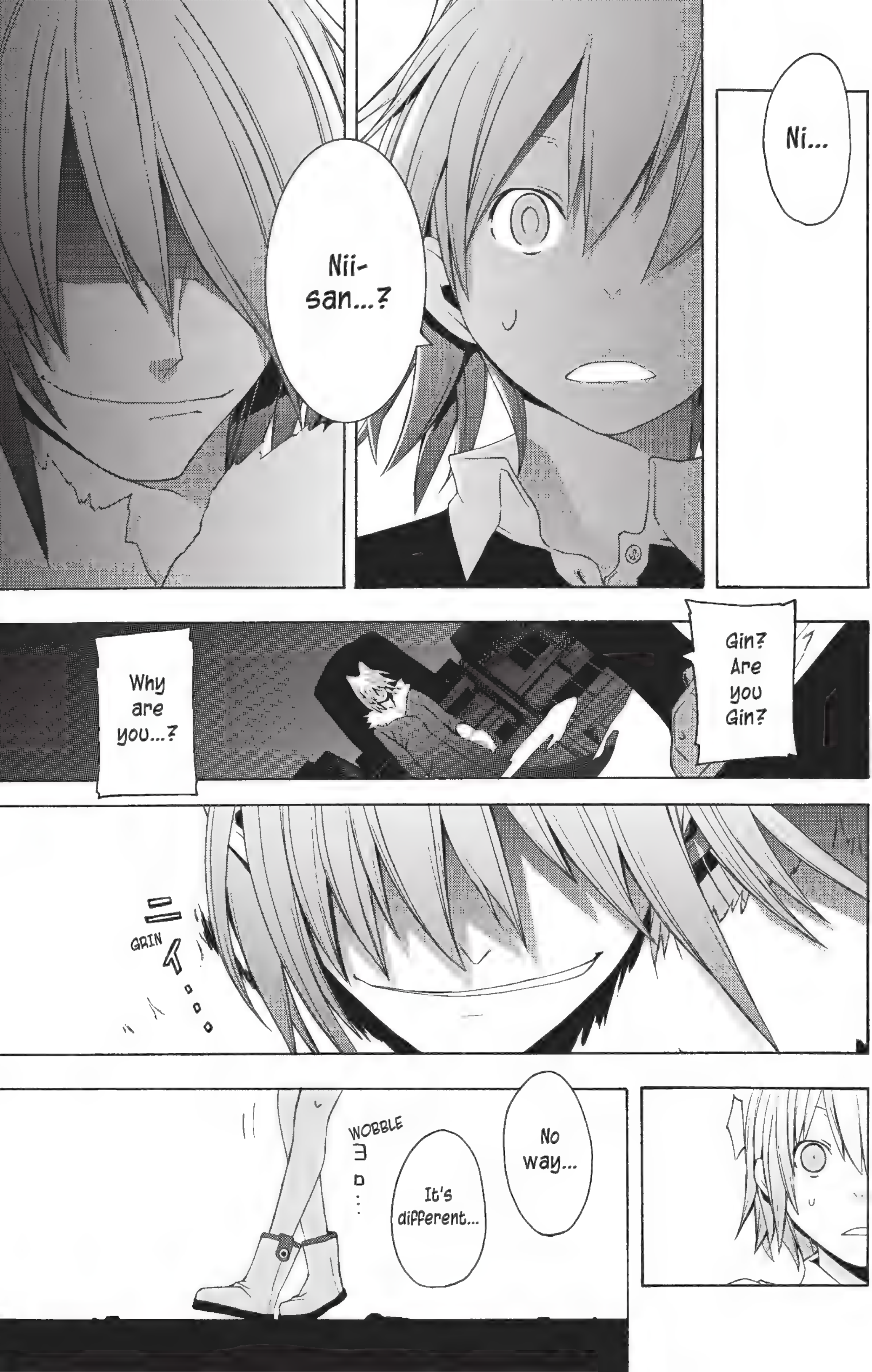

NOK NOK
Hello?
NOK ドド NOK
Can you hear me? If you can, answer me!
Hello?!
I...
...won't melt that fast.
I can hear you...
Shinozuka!
Good!
If he can hear me, then my kotodama will reach him, too!
Are you ready, Akina? Send it quickly so it doesn't suffer!
?!
I'm creating it inside...
す INHALE

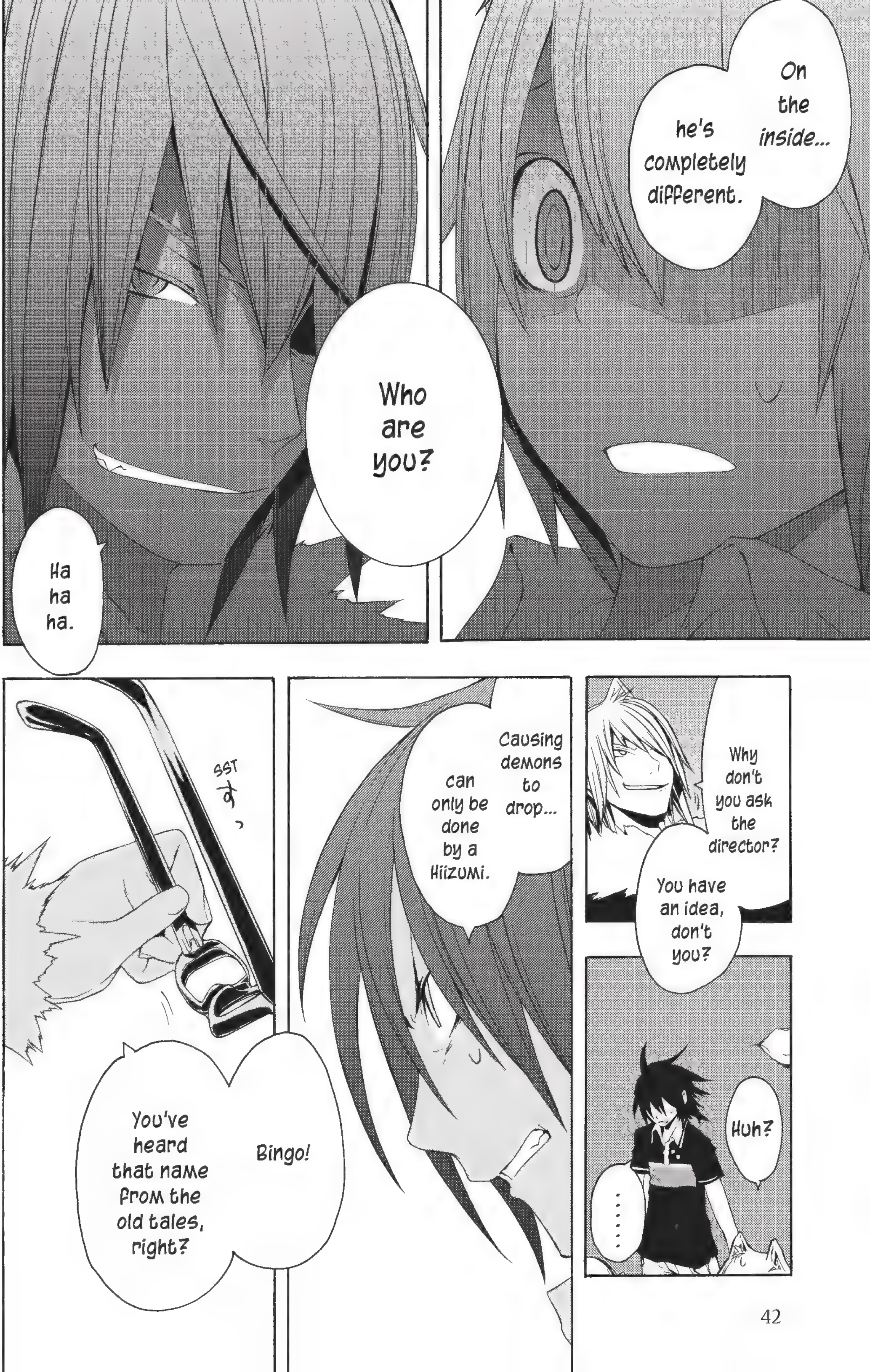

Huge...
CRACKLE
SWORDS !!
THUNK
Akina!
CRACKLE
Got it!!
Ready...
Tuning !!
FLASH

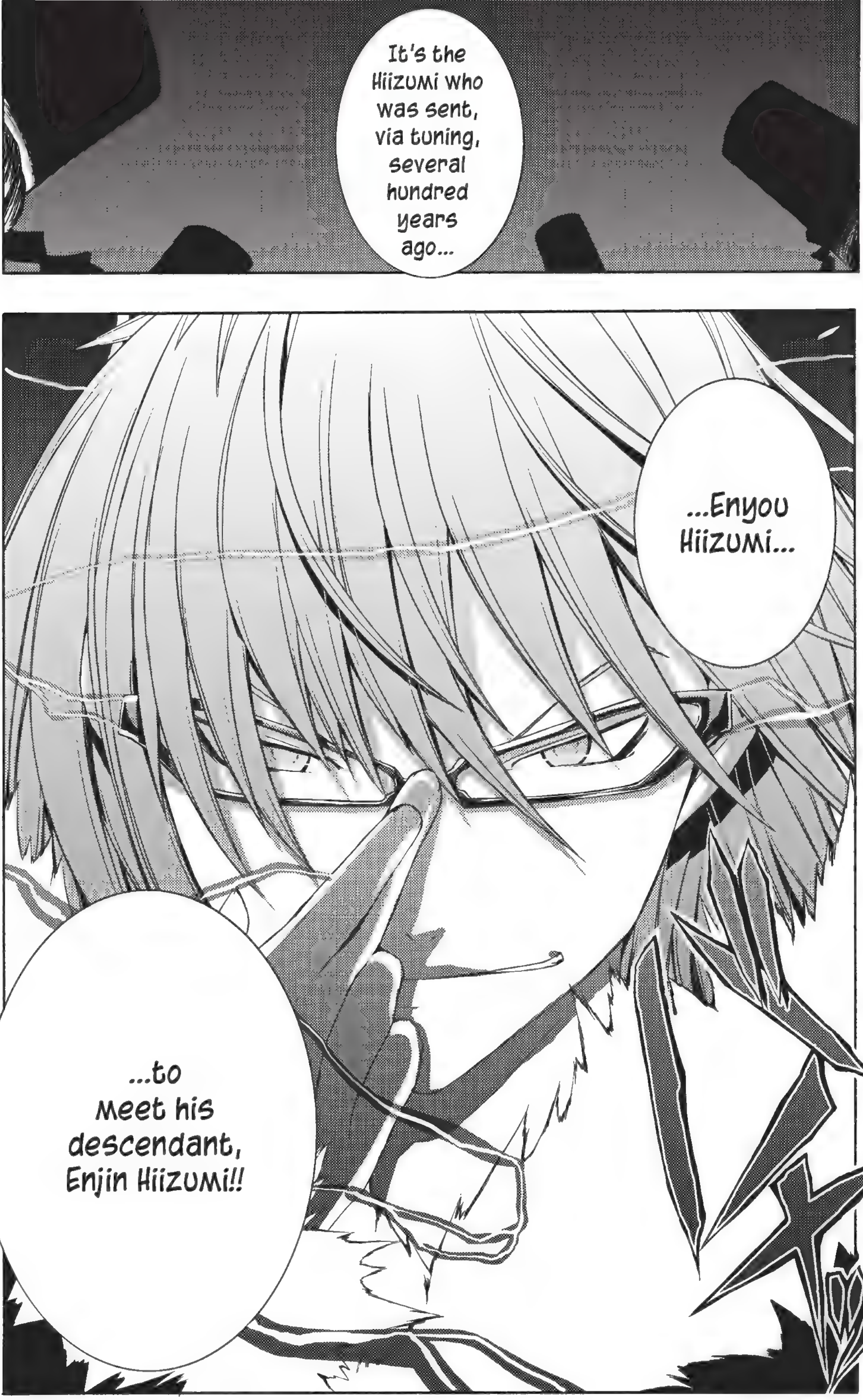

ドサッ
THUD
Ow.
That... hurt!
ズキッ
STING
Akina, you okay?!
I'm fine.
Hm.
I imagine that hurt. If you use your power too much...
ザッ
ZWISH
...won't you be out of alignment from this dimension?
Huh, Mr. Akina Hiizumi?
!
This old man... How come he knows so much?!
......


WAKE UP!
Huh?
She's awake.
?
Oh, Ao-chan.
Oh yeah, I used Satellite, and I ran out of energy...
...!!
DAZED
Listen!
PEEK
I can't read that old man's mind.
It's weird. Very weird!!
...Heh.
You hypnotized us, so we can't get out of town...
Who exactly are you?!
Heh heh.
I guess it's good timing.
SWIF


I'm a little tired... of showing the illusion.
WOOOOOOOOOOSH
What?
No... way!
RRRUMBLE...

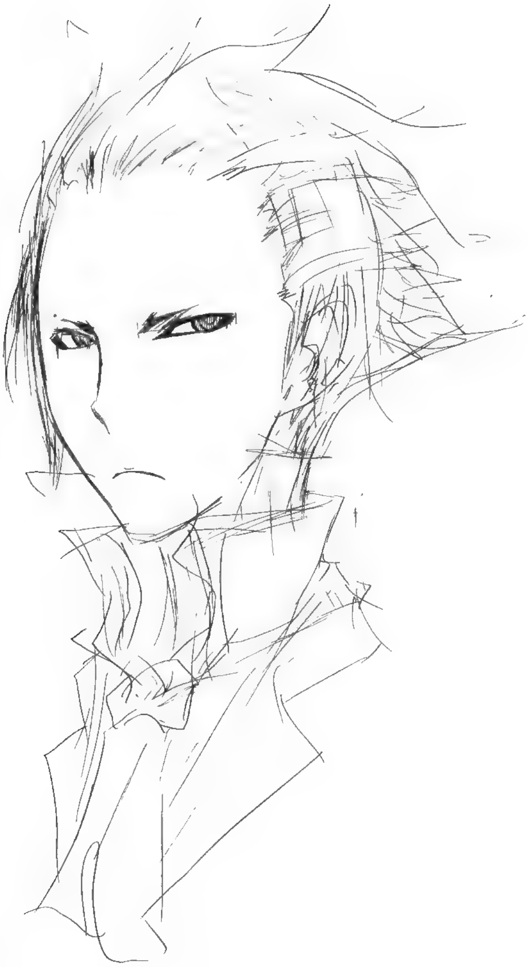

Ni...
Nii-san...?
Gin? Are you Gin?
Why are you...?
GRIN
No way...
It's different...
WOBBLE


On the inside... he's completely different.
Who are you?
Ha ha ha.
Why don't you ask the director?
You have an idea, don't you?
Huh?
......
Causing demons to drop... can only be done by a Hiizumi.
SST す
Bingo!
You've heard that name from the old tales, right?

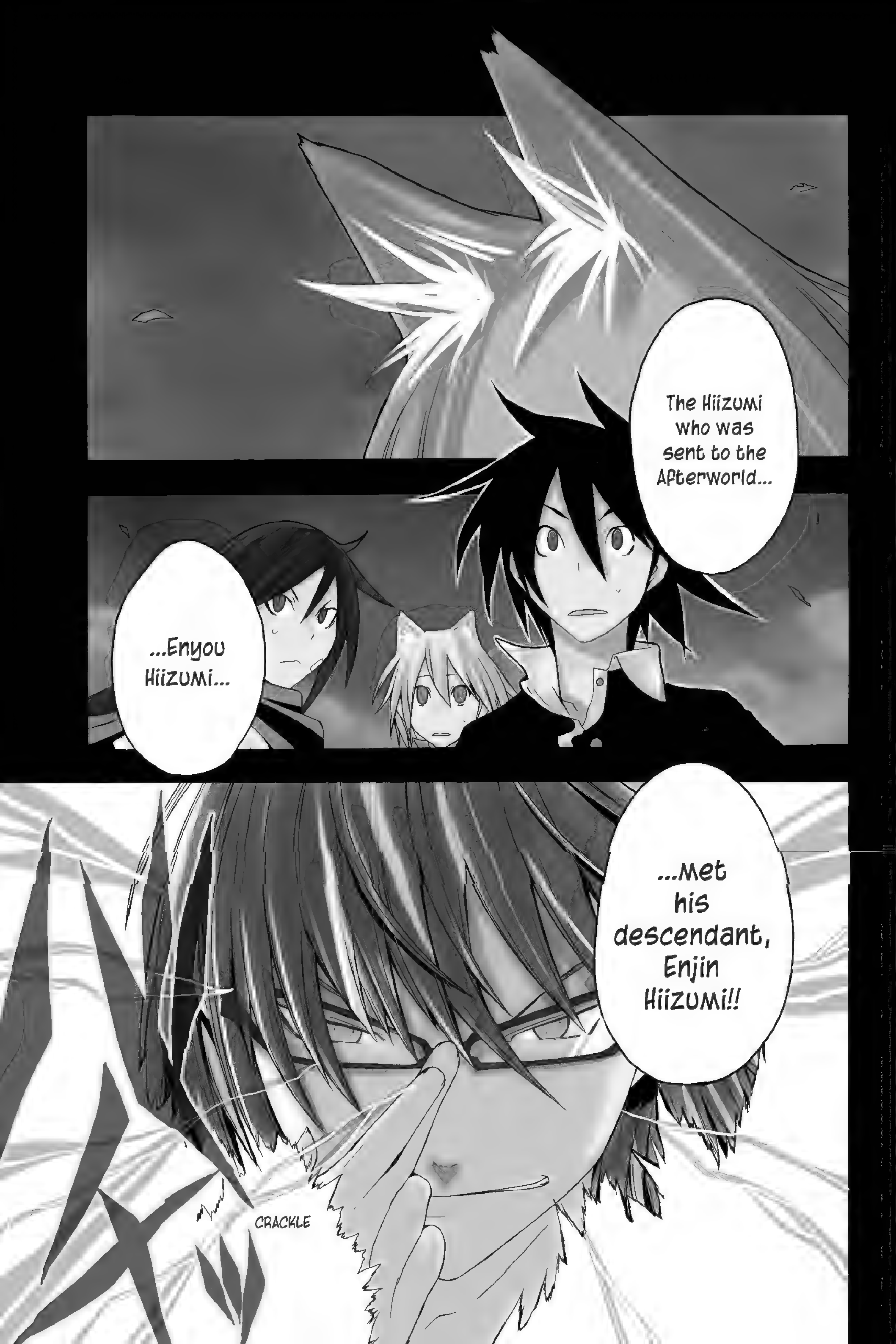

It's the Hiizumi who was sent, via tuning, several hundred years ago...
...Enyou Hiizumi...
...to meet his descendant, Enjin Hiizumi!!

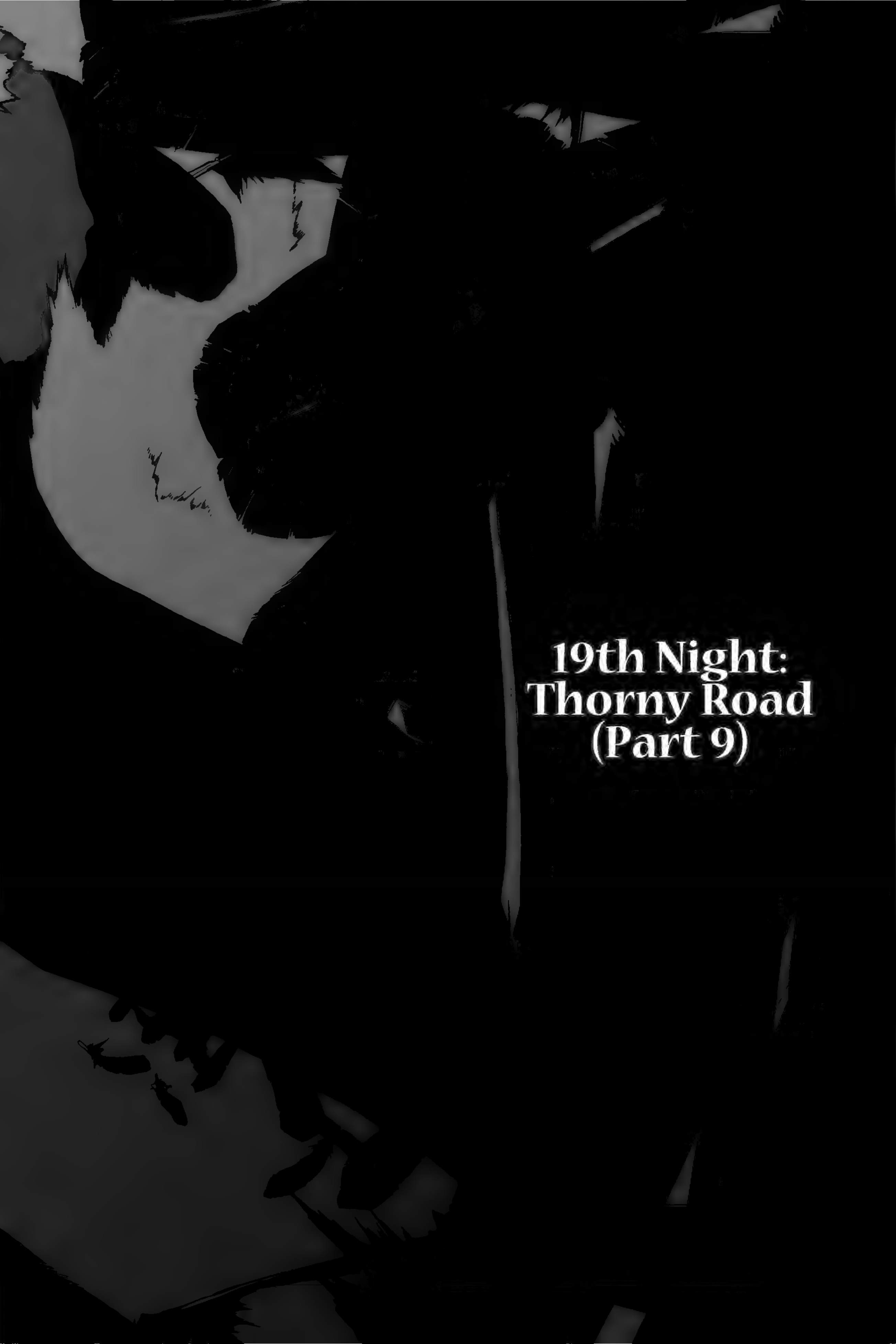
18th Night: Thorny Road (Part 8) END

Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet

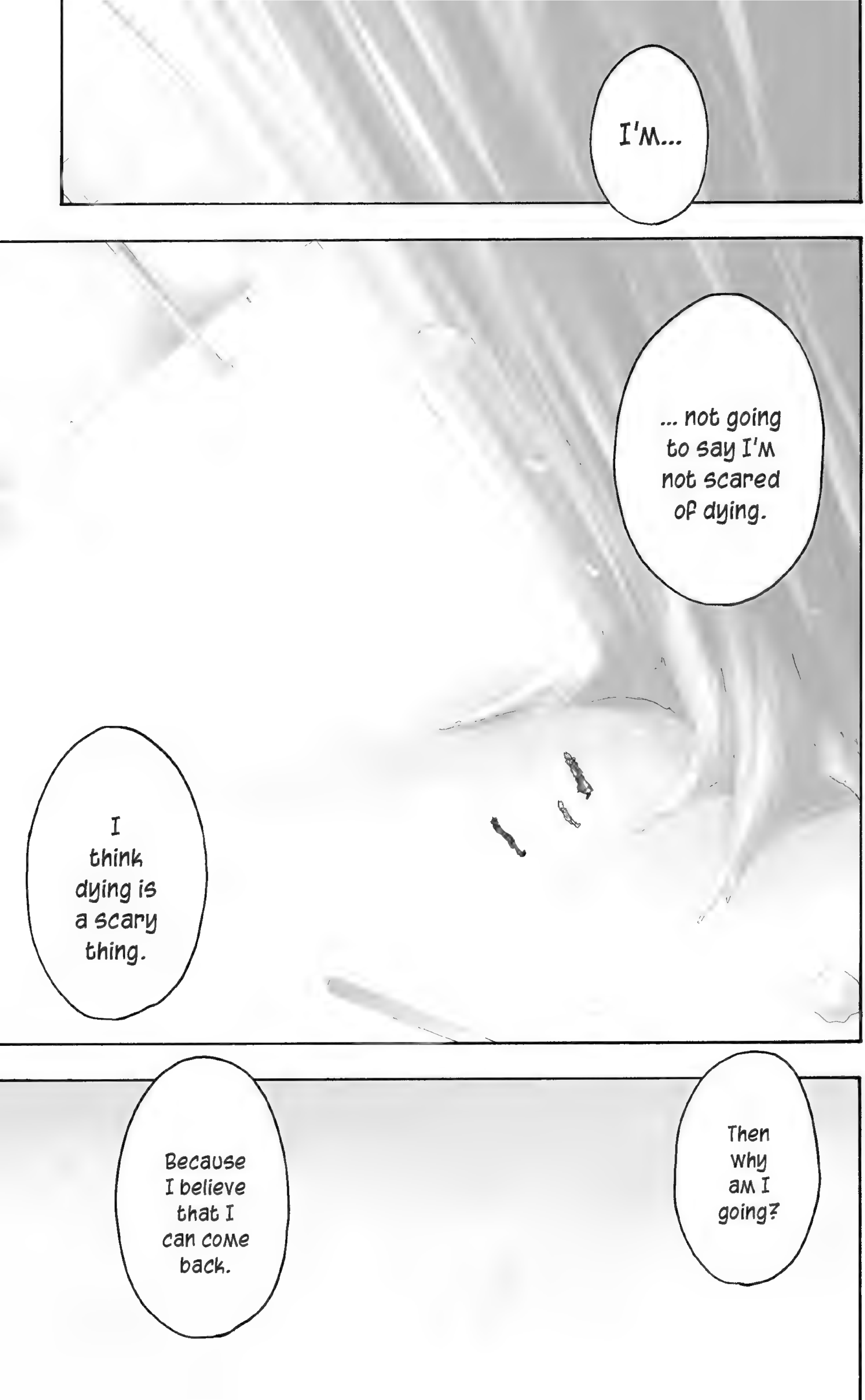


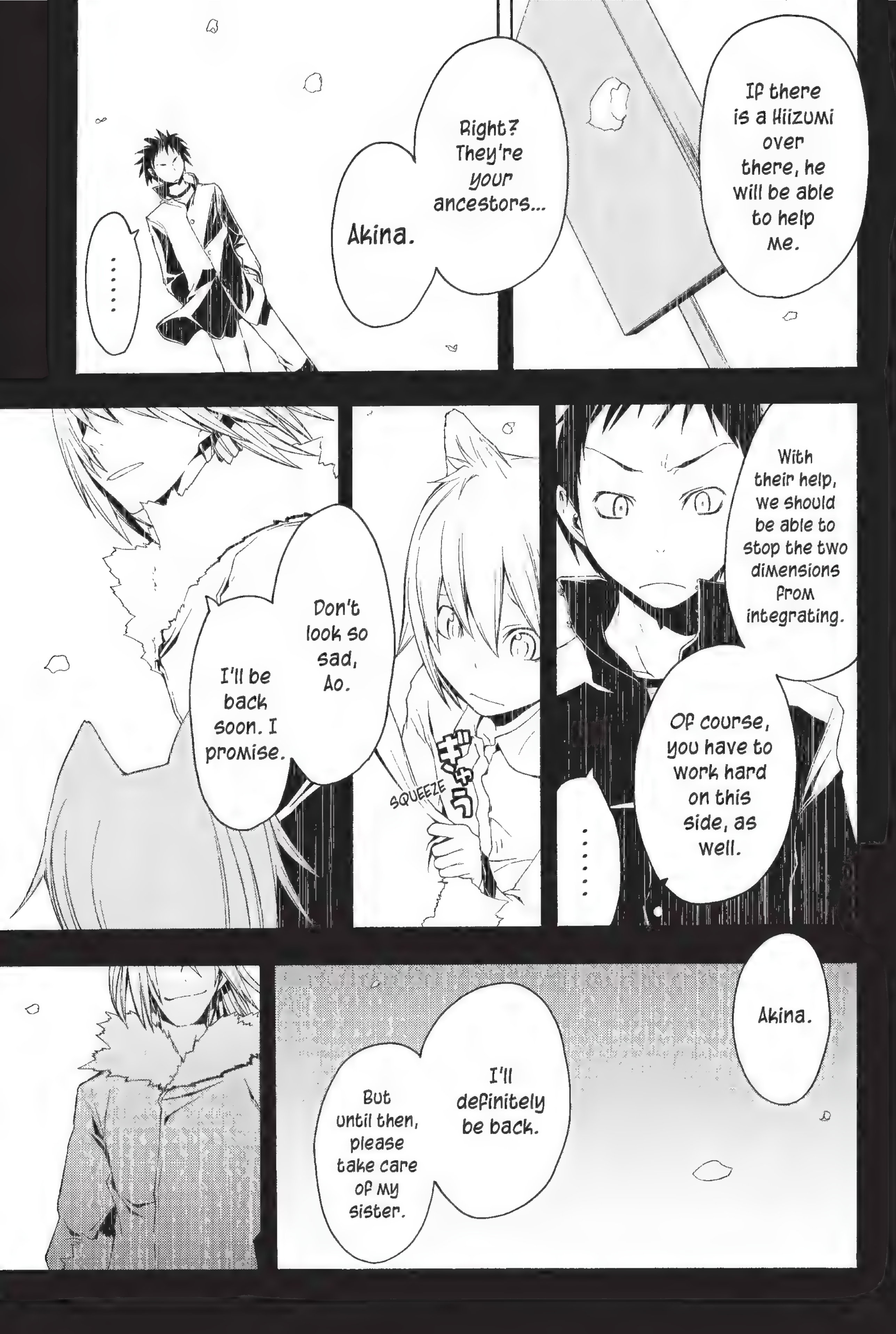
Shinozuka. He hasn't changed much.

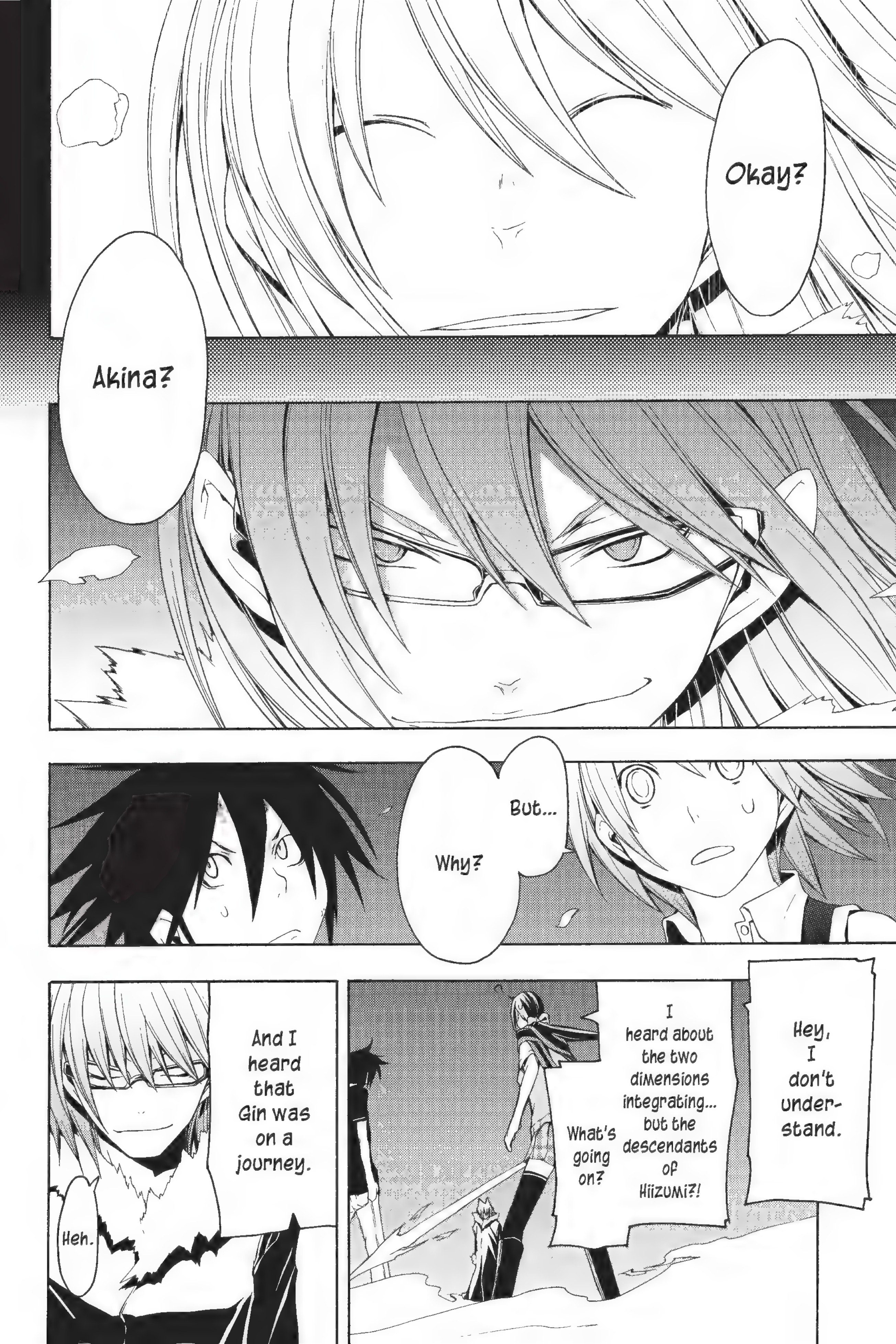

The Hiizumi who was sent to the Afterworld...
...Enyou Hiizumi...
...Met his descendant, Enjin Hiizumi!!
CRACKLE

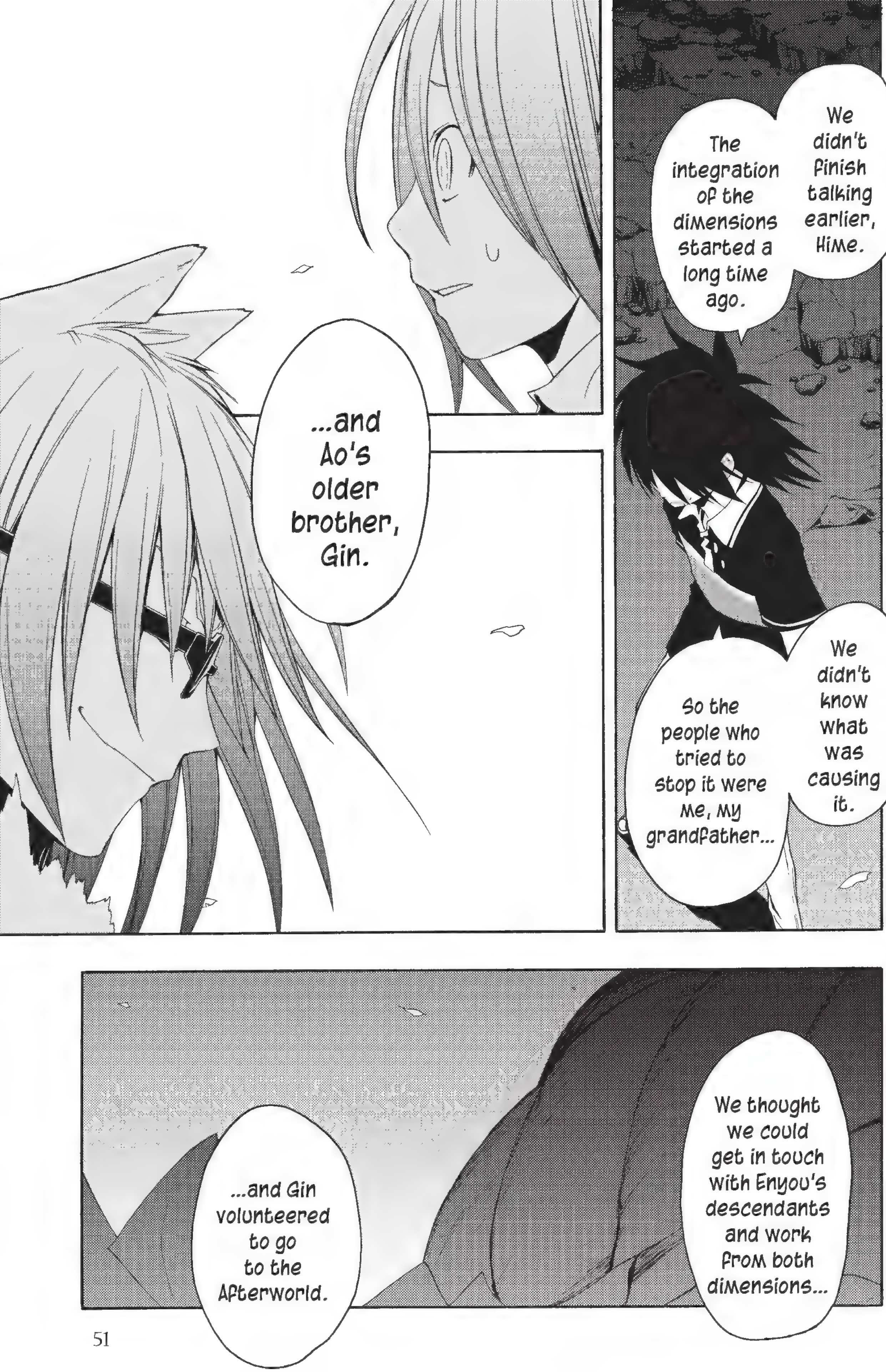


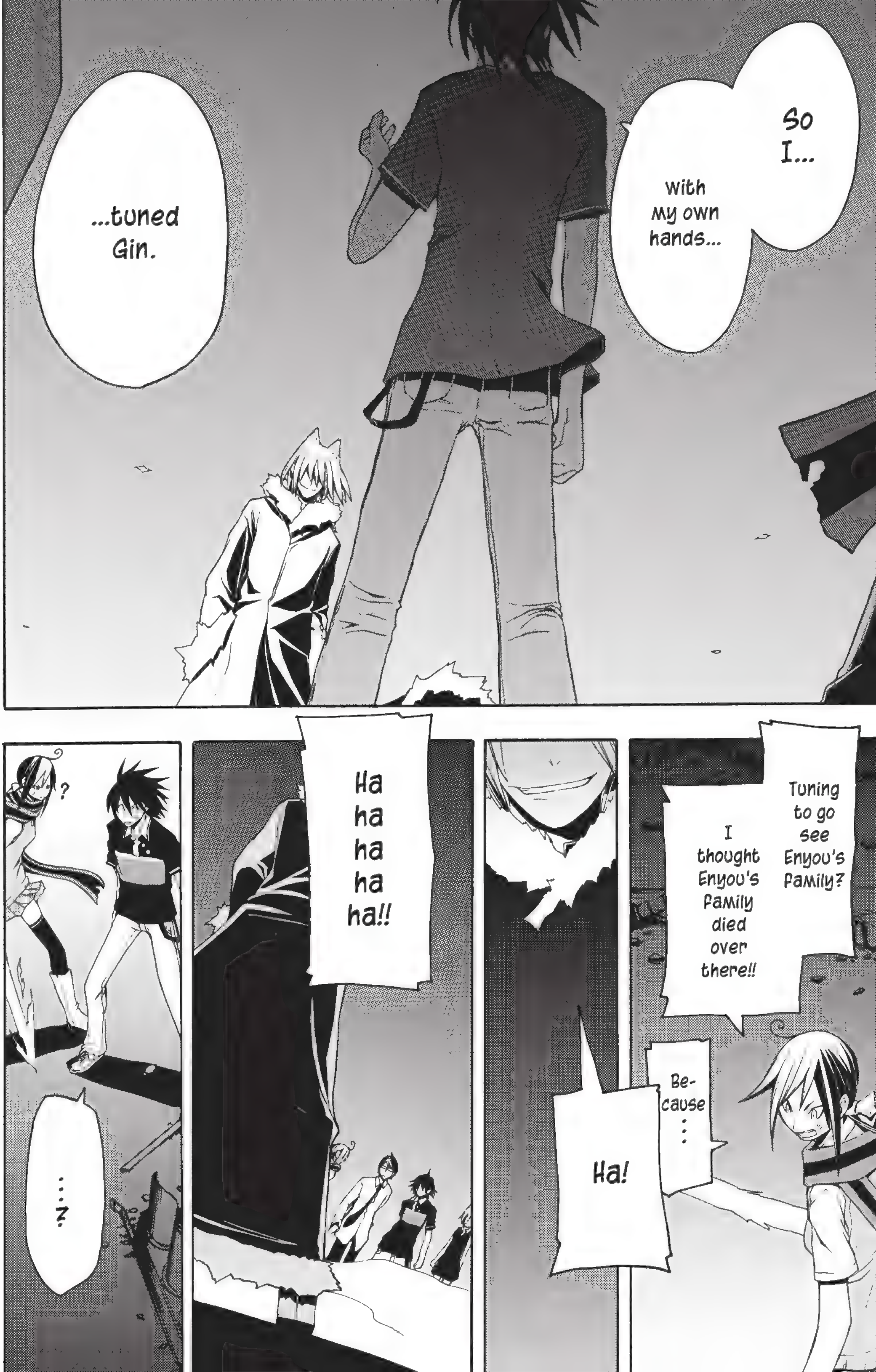
19th Night: Thorny Road (Part 9)

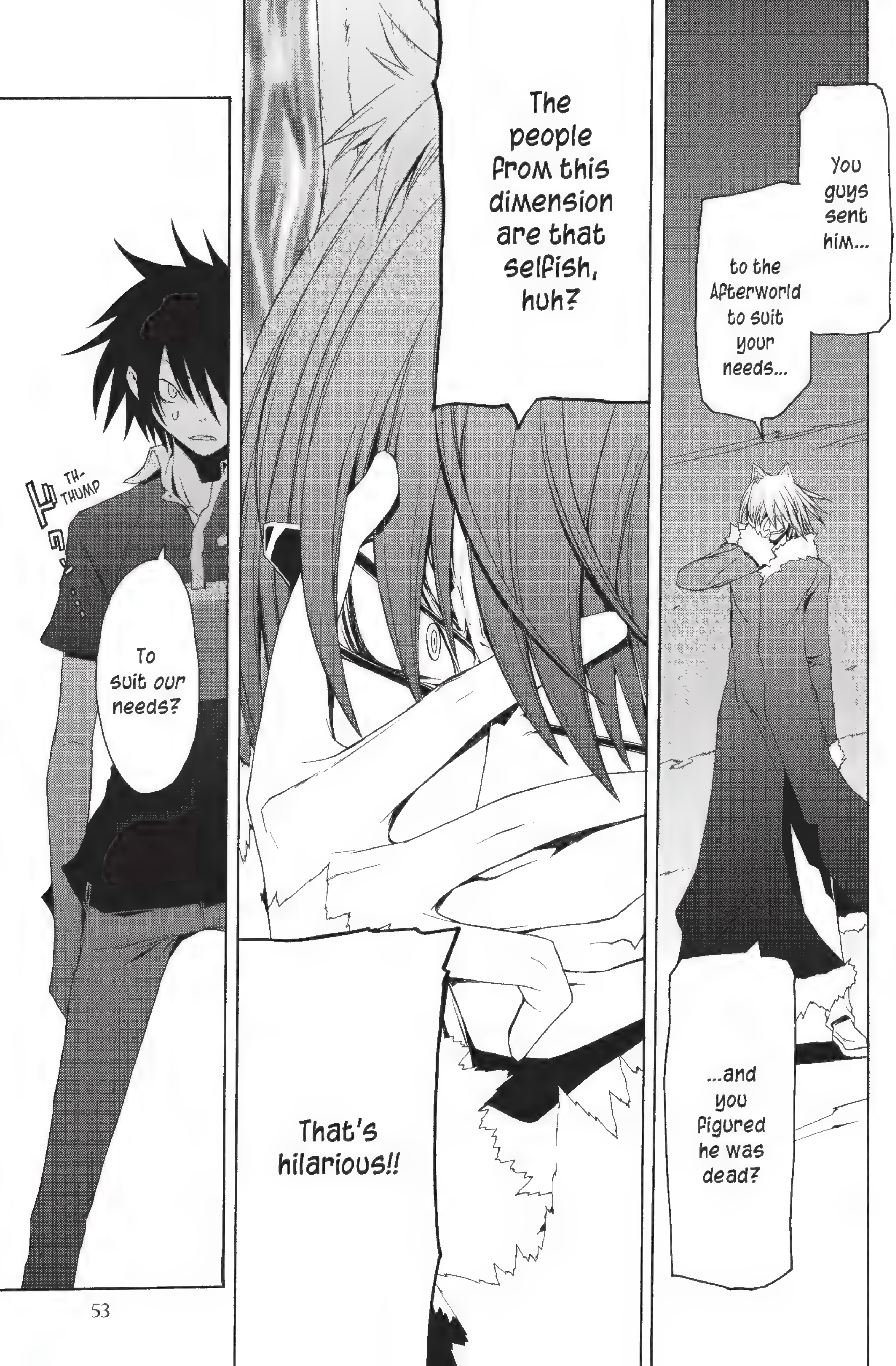

I'M...
... not going to say I'M not scared of dying.
I think dying is a scary thing.
Then why am I going?
Because I believe that I can come back.

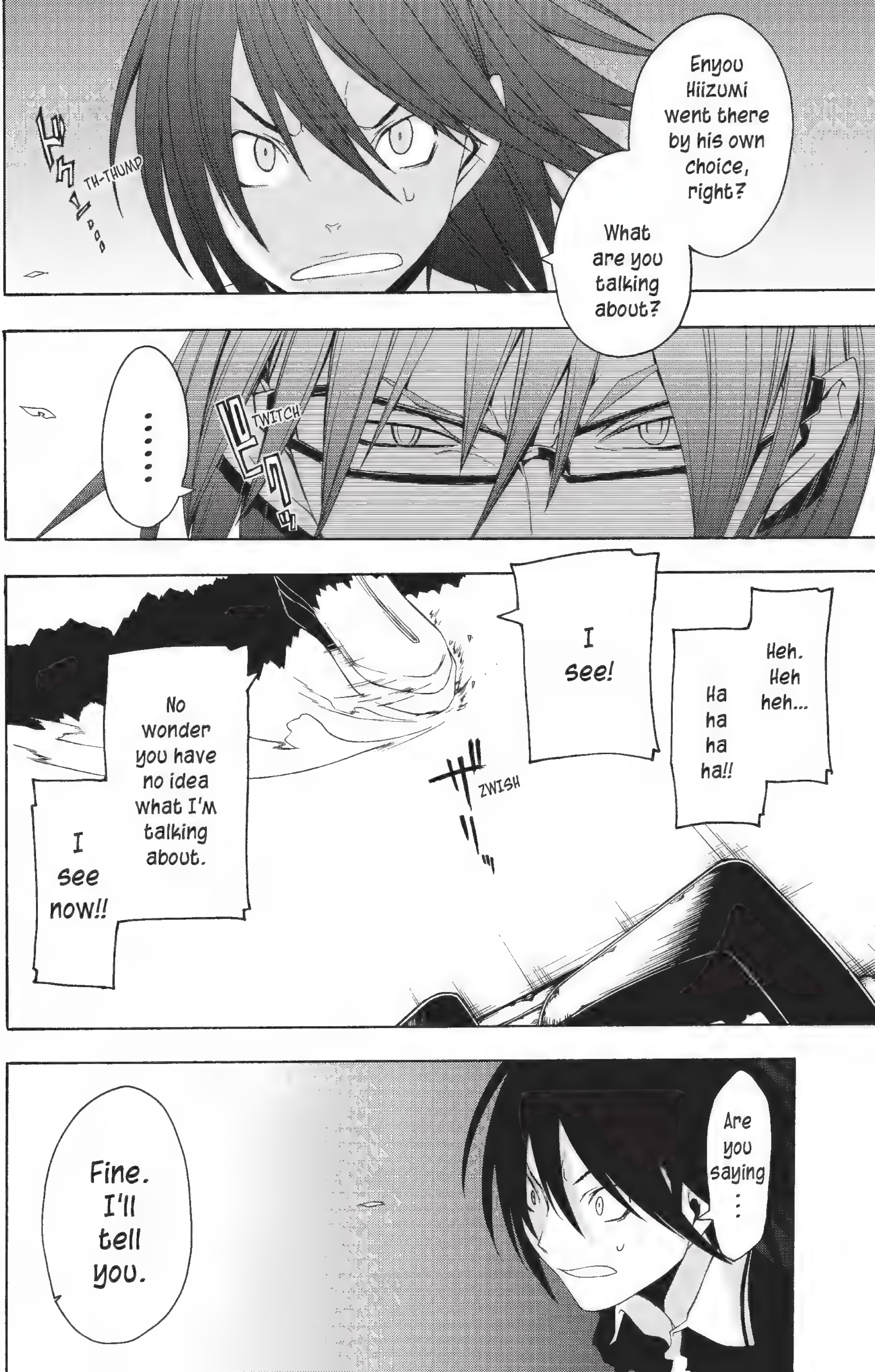

If there is a Hiizumi over there, he will be able to help me.
Right? They're *your* ancestors...
Akina.
......
With their help, we should be able to stop the two dimensions from integrating.
Of course, you have to work hard on this side, as well.
......
ギュう
SQUEEZE
Don't look so sad, Ao.
I'll be back soon. I promise.
Akina.
I'll definitely be back.
But until then, please take care of my sister.

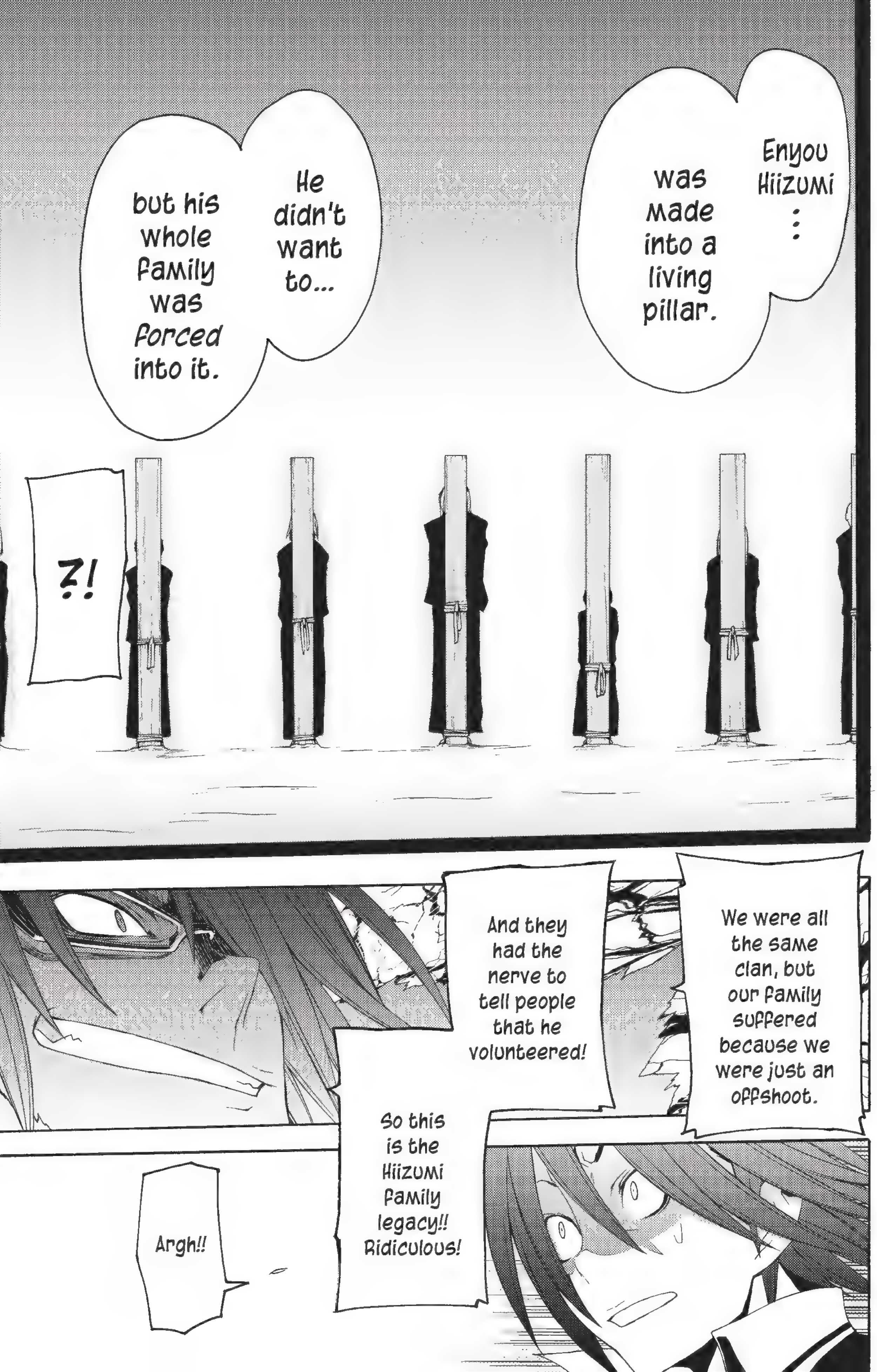

Okay?
Akina?
But... Why?
Hey, I don't understand.
I heard about the two dimensions integrating... but the descendants of Hiizumi?!
What's going on?
And I heard that Gin was on a journey.
Heh.

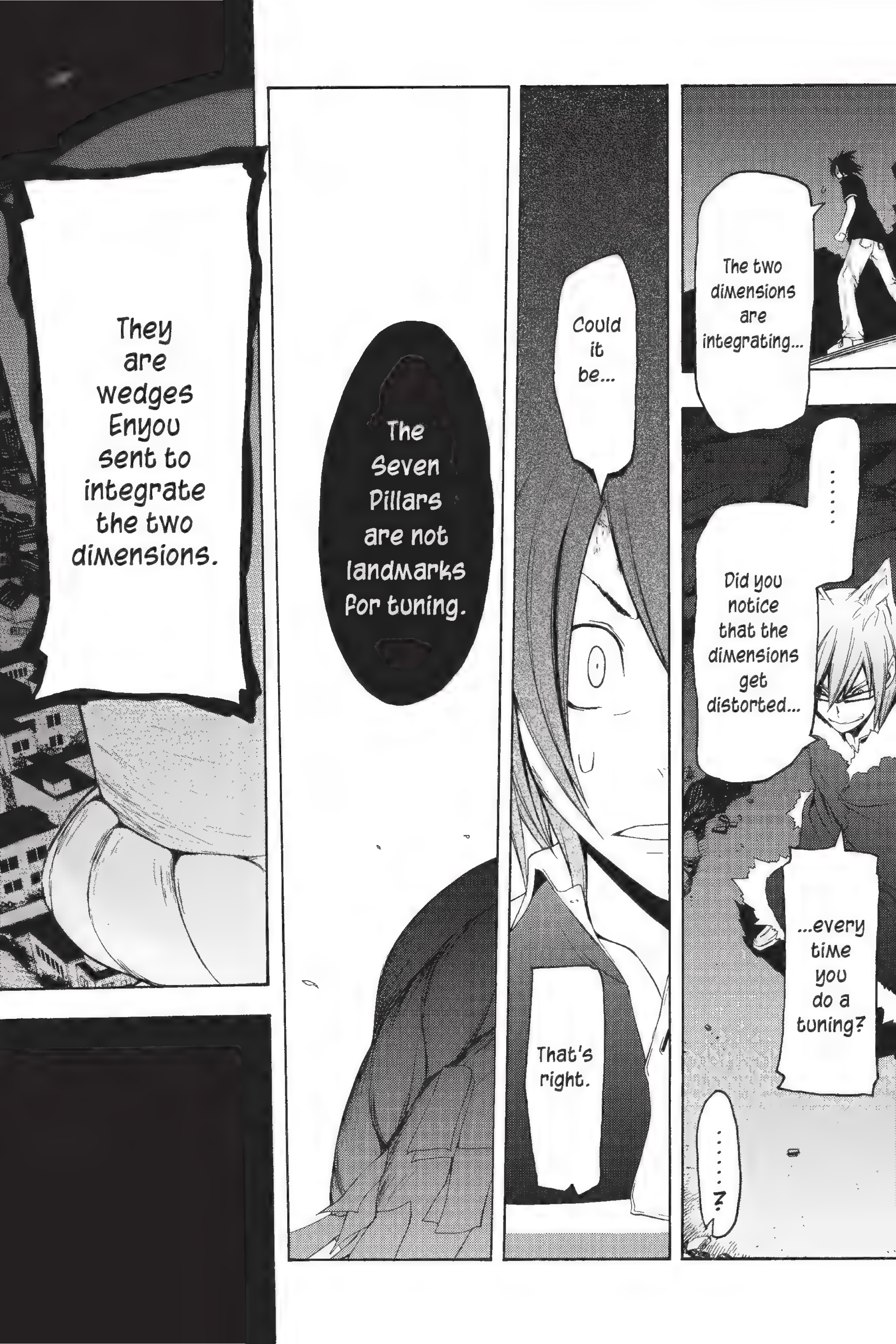

We didn't finish talking earlier, Hime.
The integration of the dimensions started a long time ago.
We didn't know what was causing it.
So the people who tried to stop it were me, my grandfather...
...and Ao's older brother, Gin.
We thought we could get in touch with Enyou's descendants and work from both dimensions...
...and Gin volunteered to go to the Afterworld.

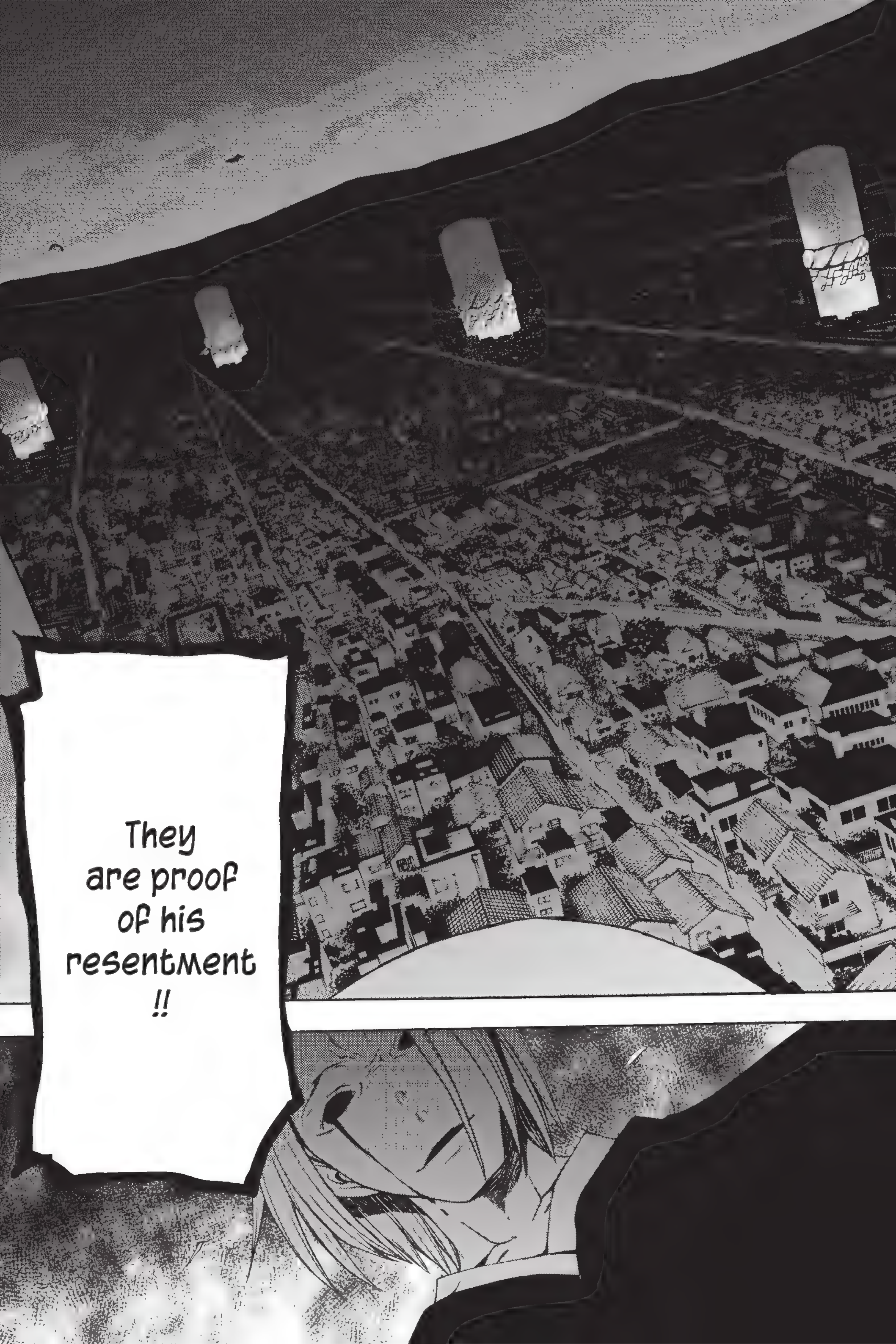

So I...
With my own hands...
...tuned Gin.
Tuning to go see Enyou's family?
I thought Enyou's family died over there!!
Be-cause...
Ha!
Ha ha ha ha ha!!
?
...?

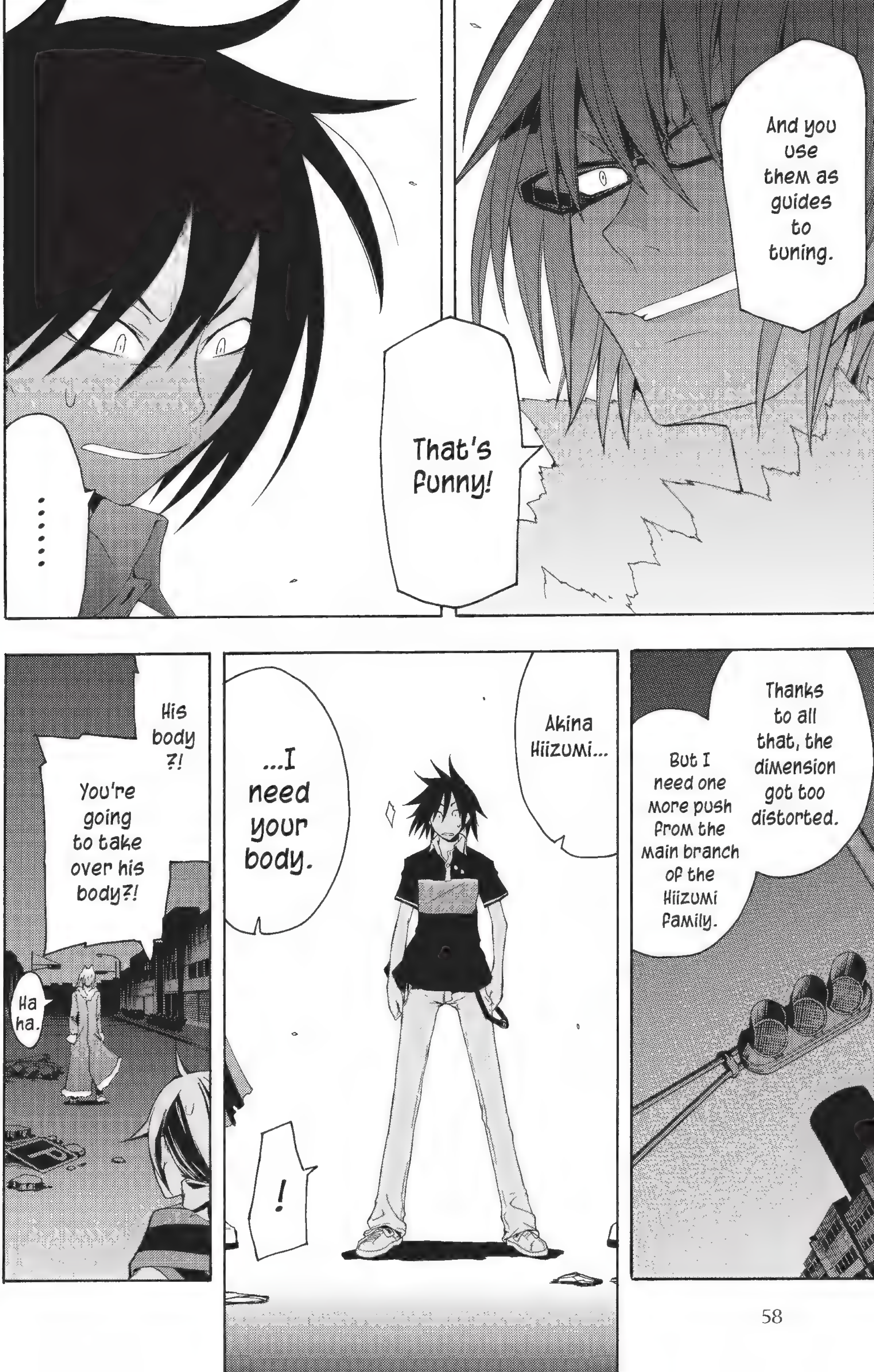

You guys sent him...
to the Afterworld to suit your needs...
...and you figured he was dead?
The people from this dimension are that selfish, huh?
That's hilarious!!
TH-THUMP
To suit our needs?

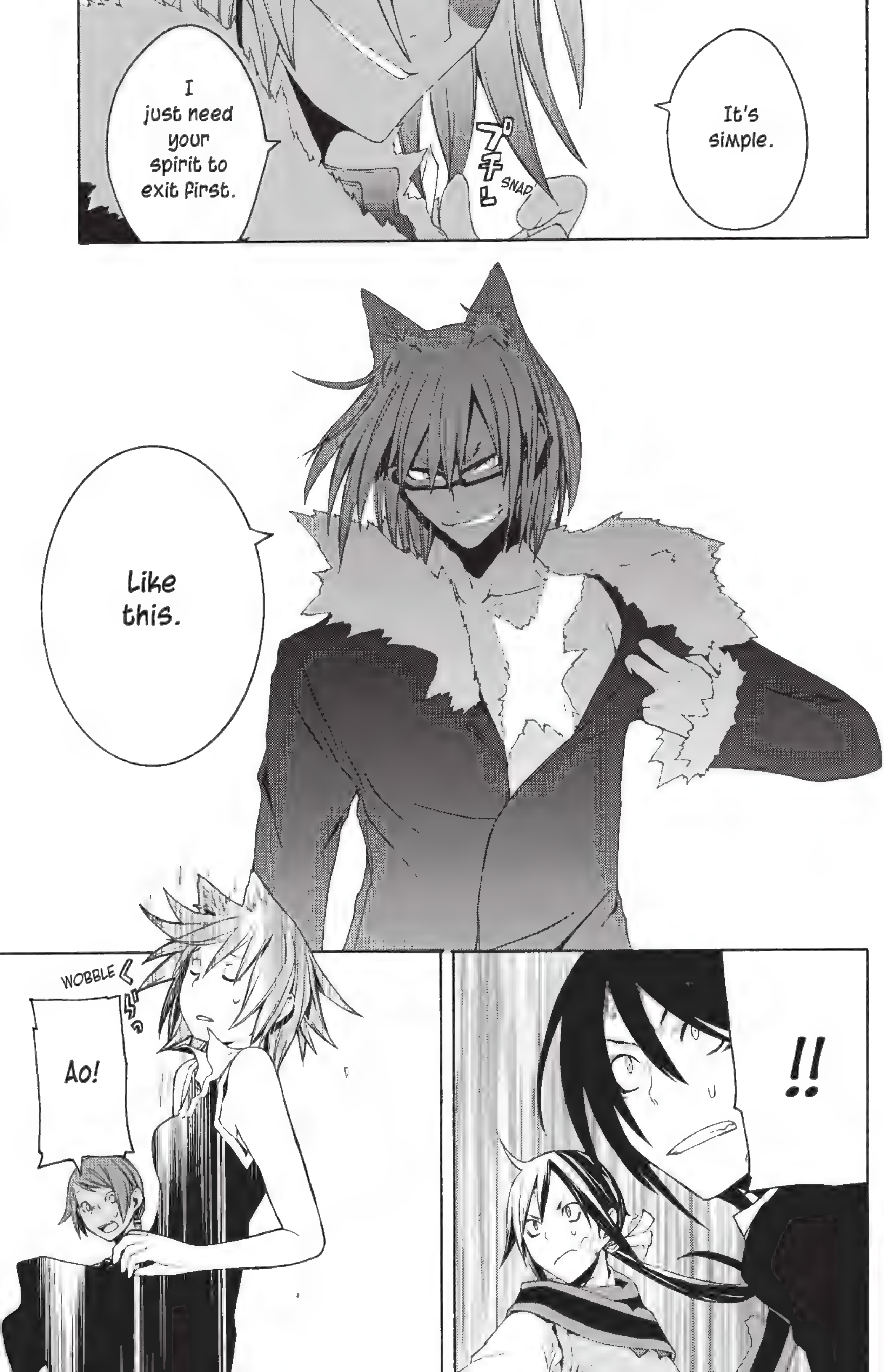

Enyou Hiizumi went there by his own choice, right?
What are you talking about?
TH-THUMP
......
TWITCH
Heh. Heh heh...
Ha ha ha ha!!
I see!
ZWISH
No wonder you have no idea what I'm talking about.
I see now!!
Are you saying...
Fine. I'll tell you.

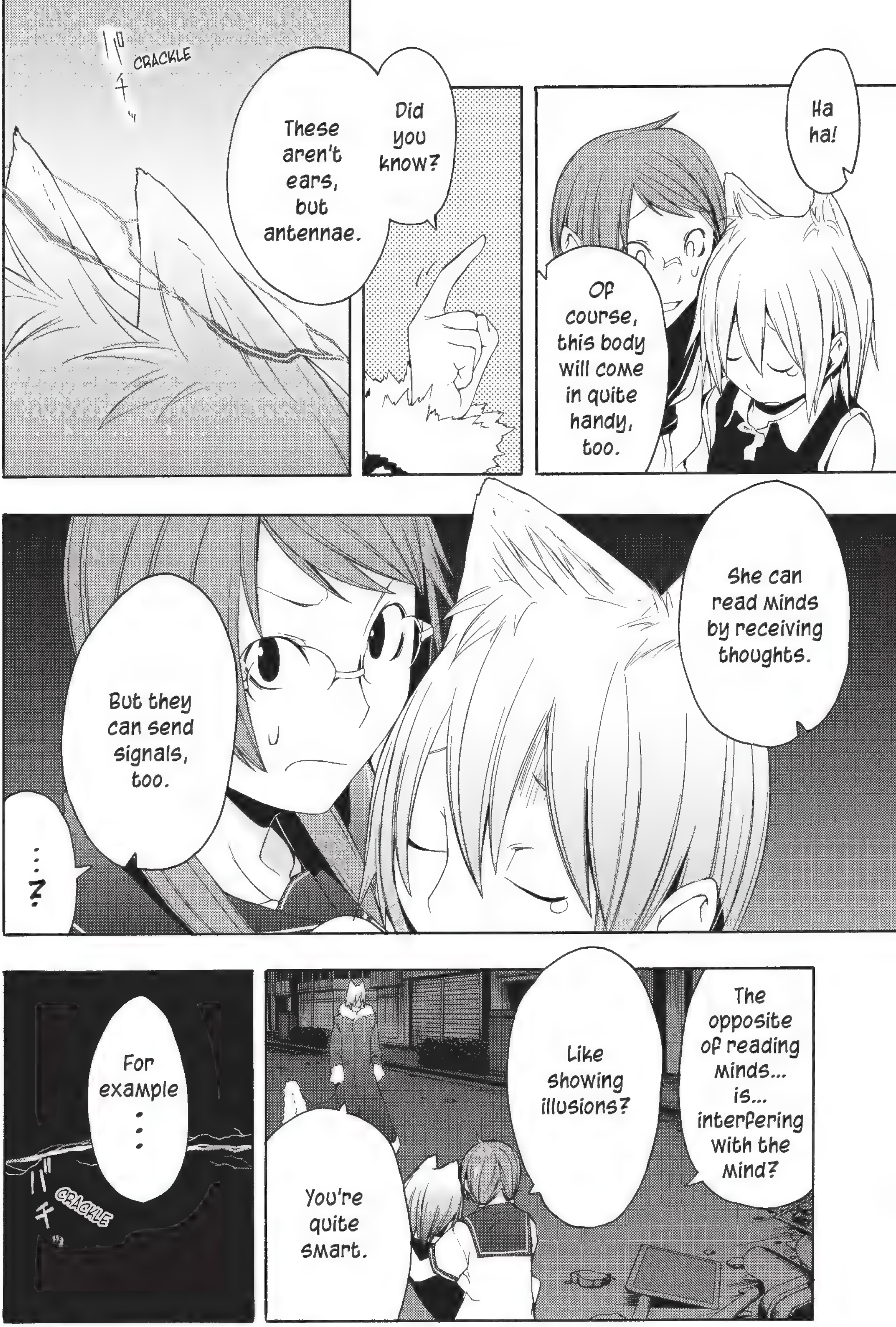

Enyou Hiizumi...
was made into a living pillar.
He didn't want to...
but his whole family was *forced* into it.
?!
We were all the same clan, but our family suffered because we were just an offshoot.
And they had the nerve to tell people that he volunteered!
So this is the Hiizumi family legacy!! Ridiculous!
Argh!!

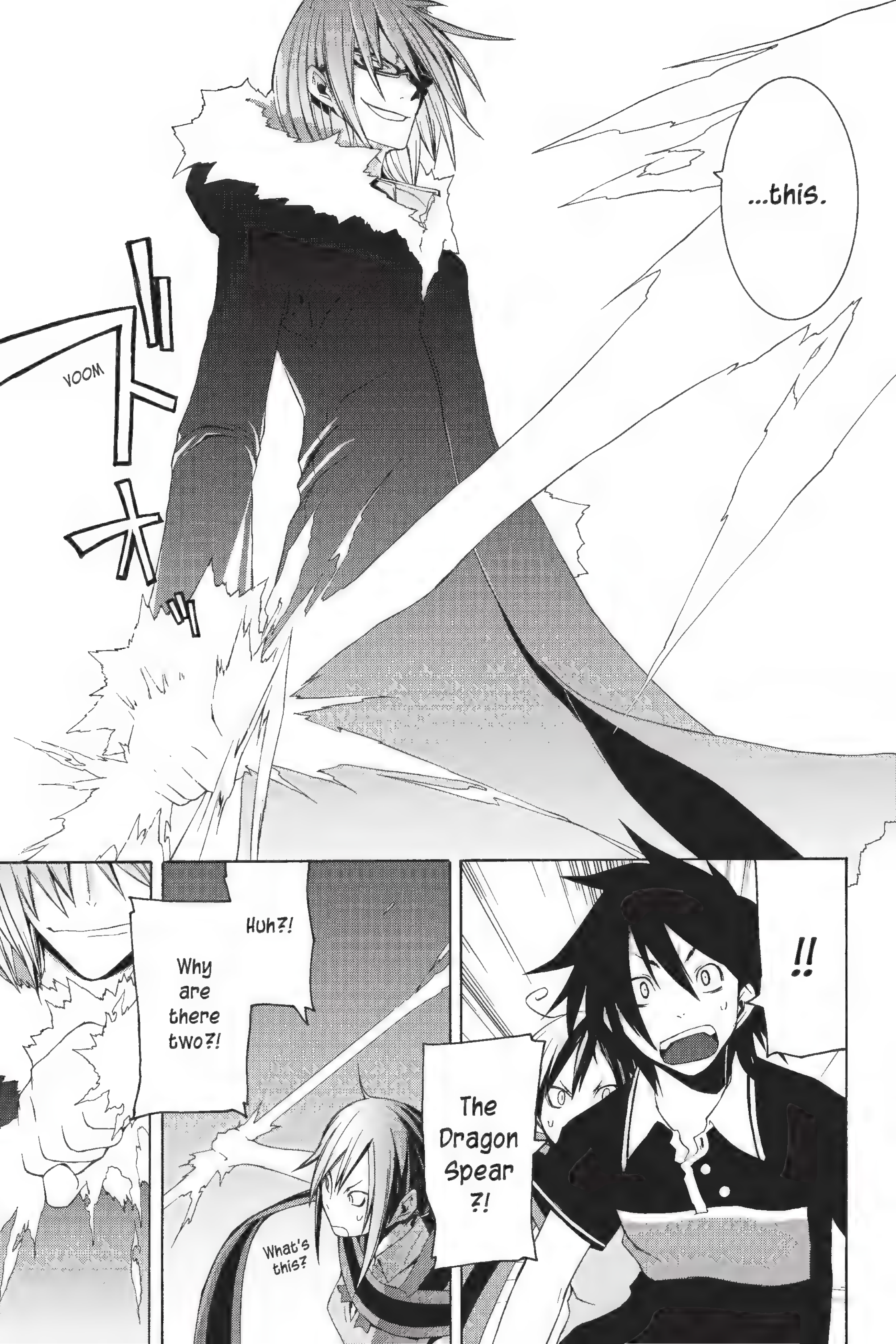

The two dimensions are integrating...
......
Did you notice that the dimensions get distorted...
...every time you do a tuning?
......?
Could it be...
That's right.
The Seven Pillars are not landmarks for tuning.
They are wedges Enyou sent to integrate the two dimensions.

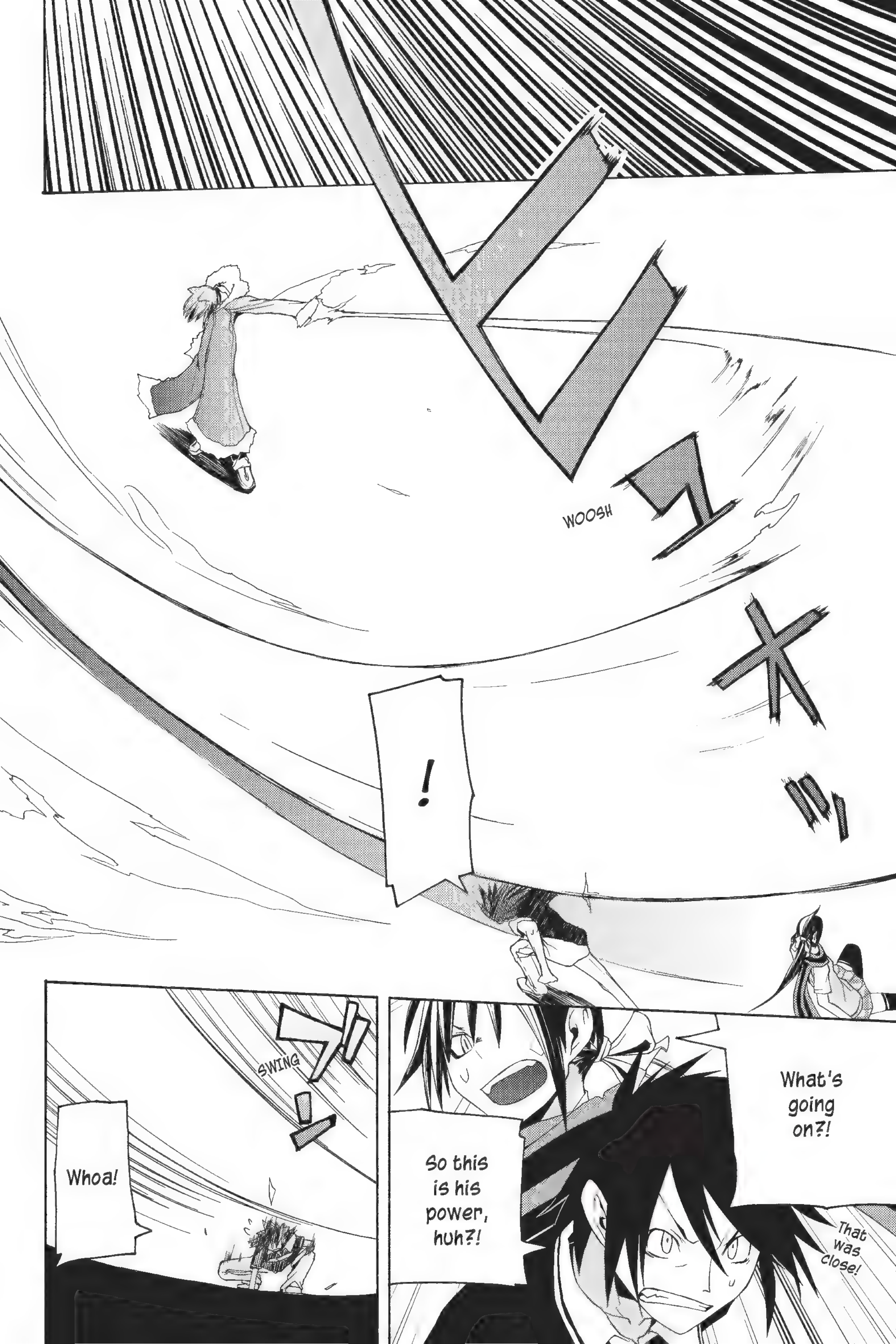

They are proof of his resentment !!

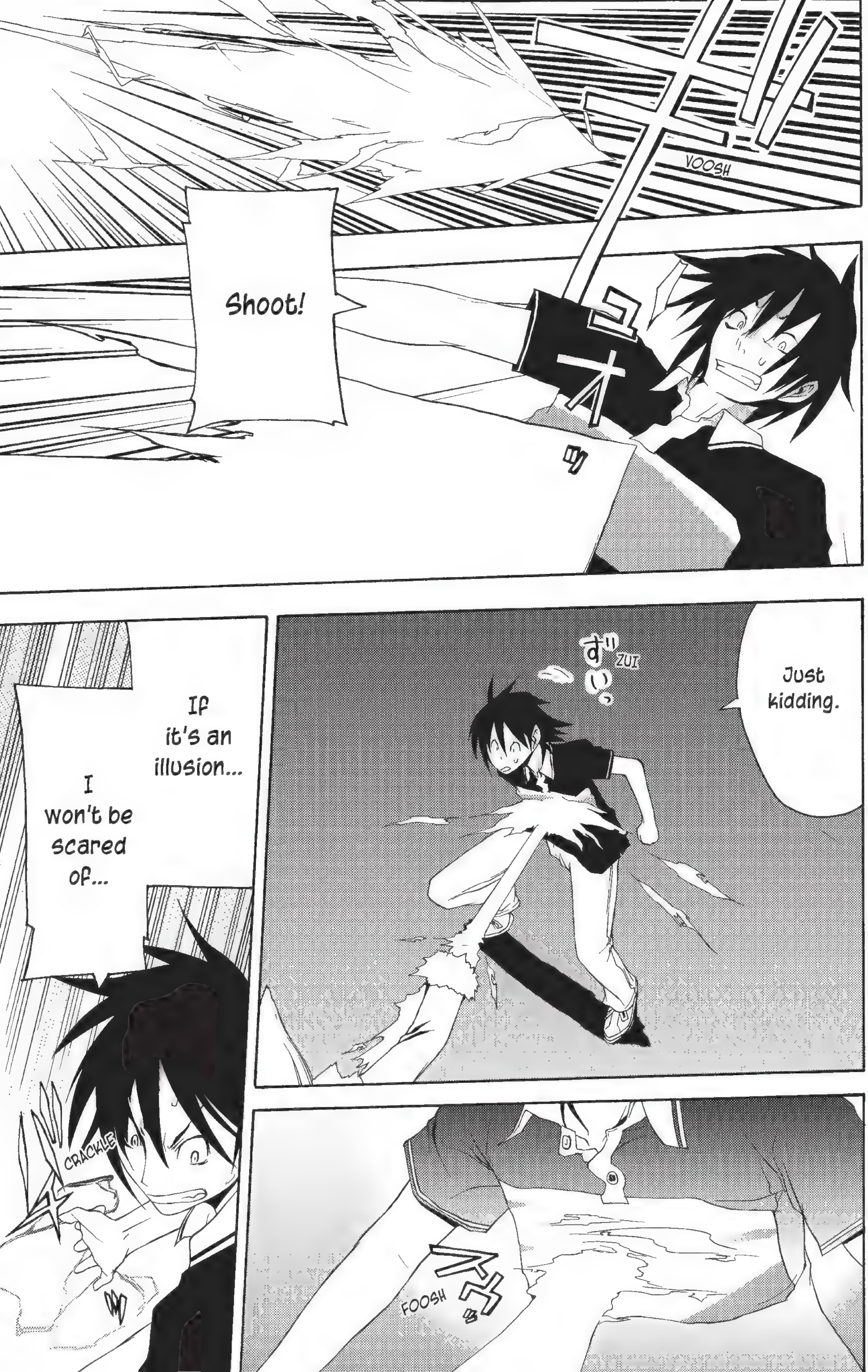

And you use them as guides to tuning.
That's funny!
......
Thanks to all that, the dimension got too distorted.
But I need one more push from the main branch of the Hiizumi family.
Akina Hiizumi...
...I need your body.
!
His body?!
You're going to take over his body?!
Ha ha.

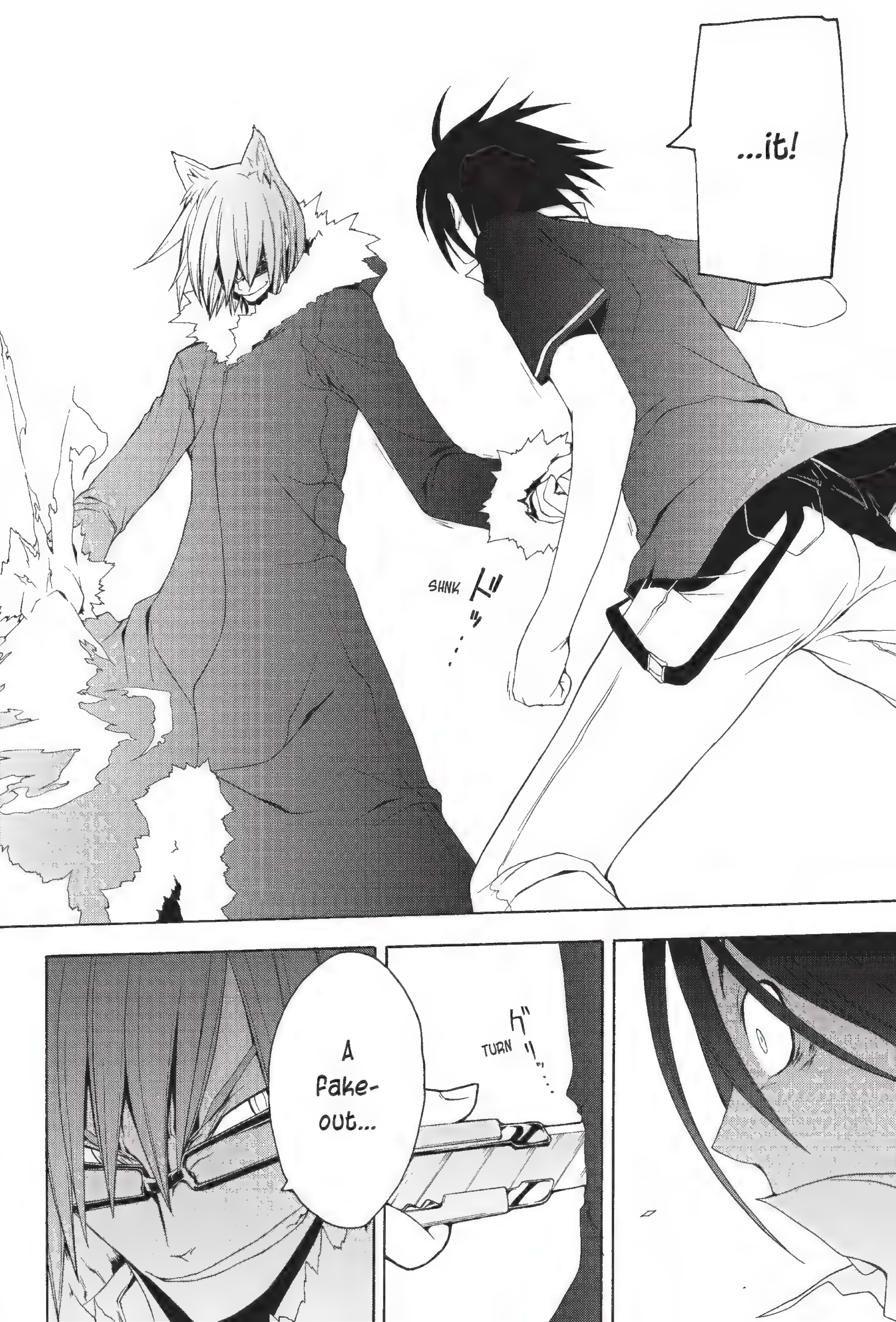

It's simple.
プチ
SNAP
I just need your spirit to exit first.
Like this.
!!
WOBBLE
Ao!

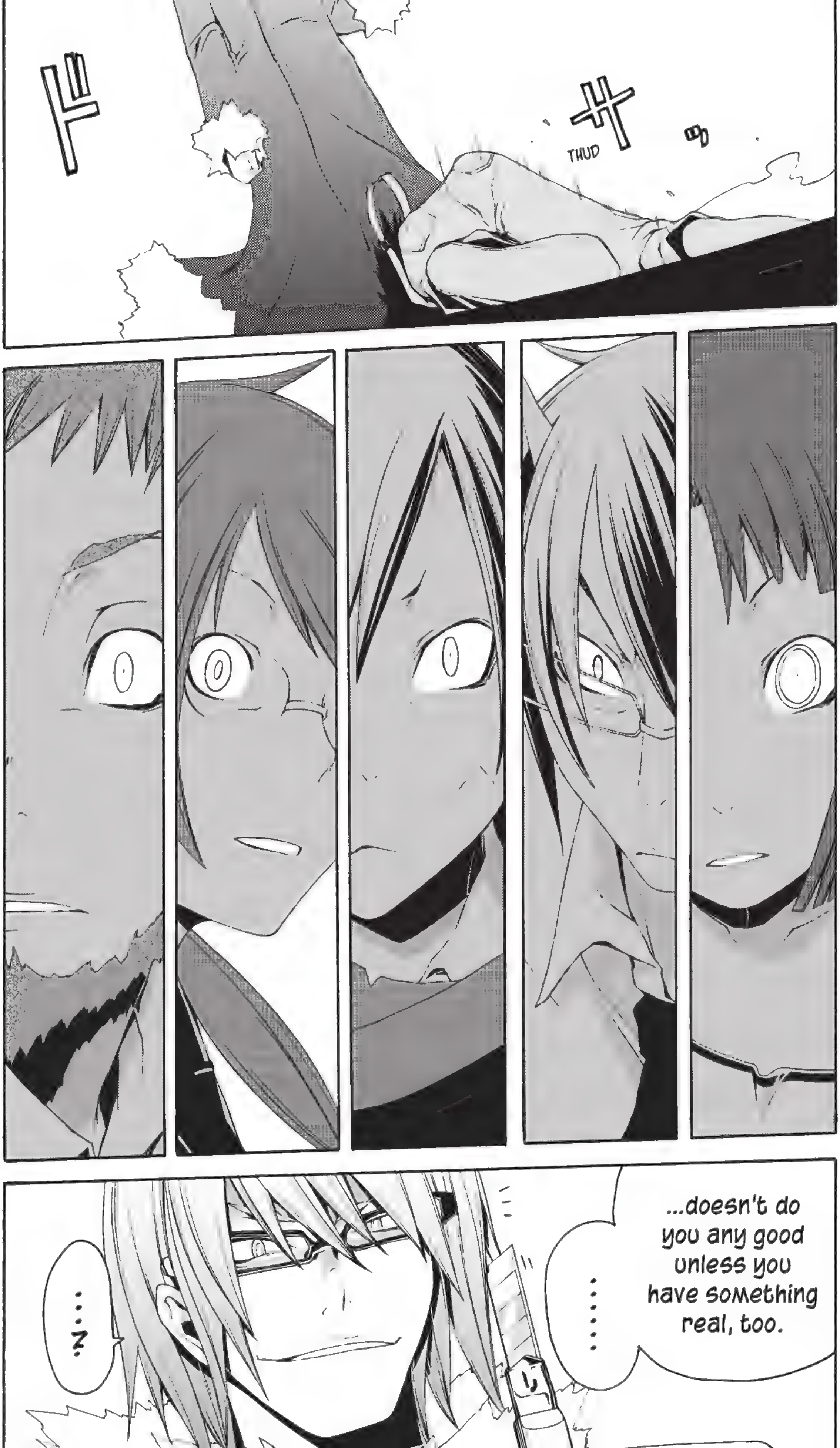

Ha ha!
Of course, this body will come in quite handy, too.
Did you know?
These aren't ears, but antennae.
パチッ
CRACKLE
She can read minds by receiving thoughts.
But they can send signals, too.
...?
The opposite of reading minds... is... interfering with the mind?
Like showing illusions?
You're quite smart.
For example...
バチ
CRACKLE

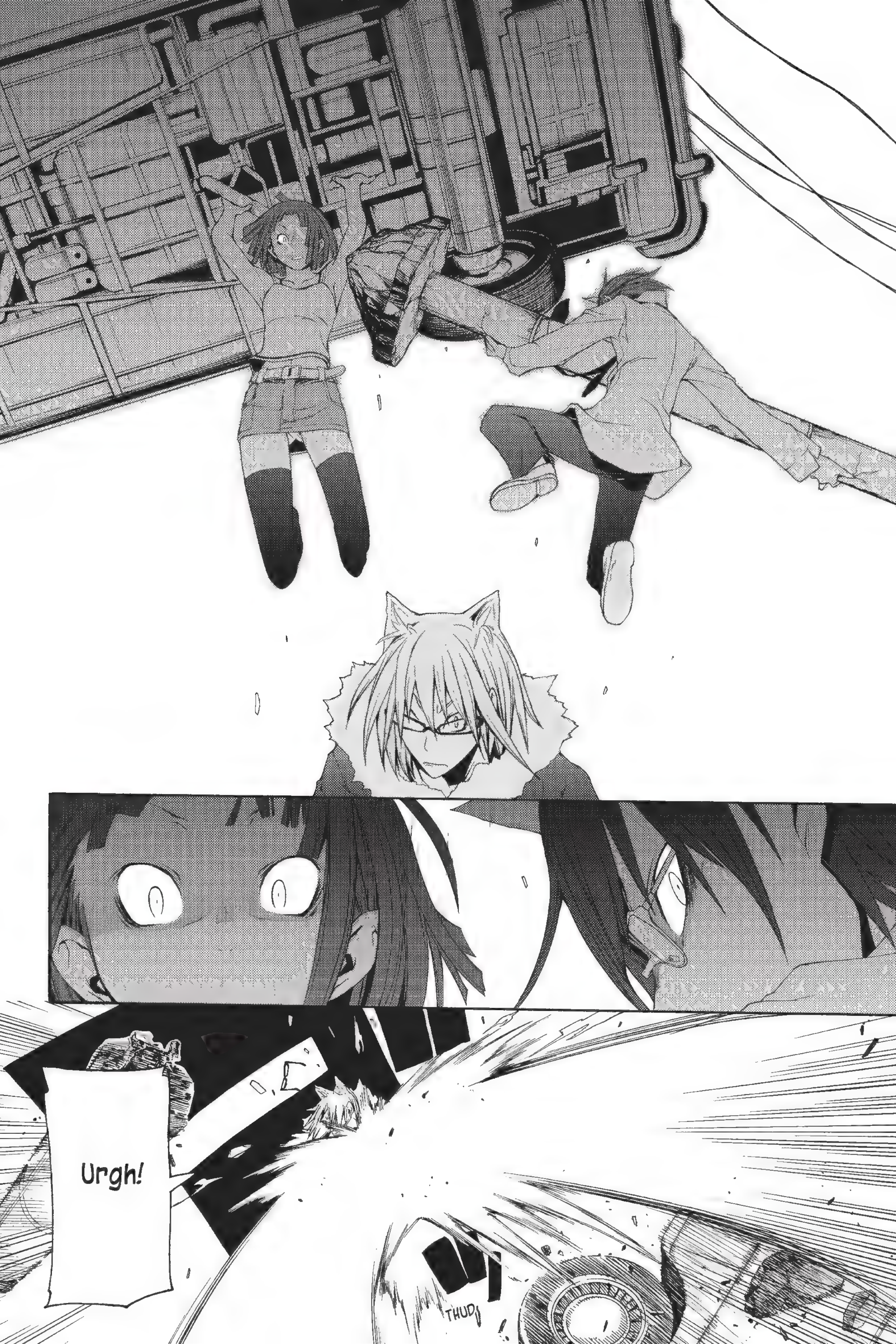

...this.
ドドオッ
VOOM
!!
The Dragon Spear?!
What's this?
Huh?!
Why are there two?!

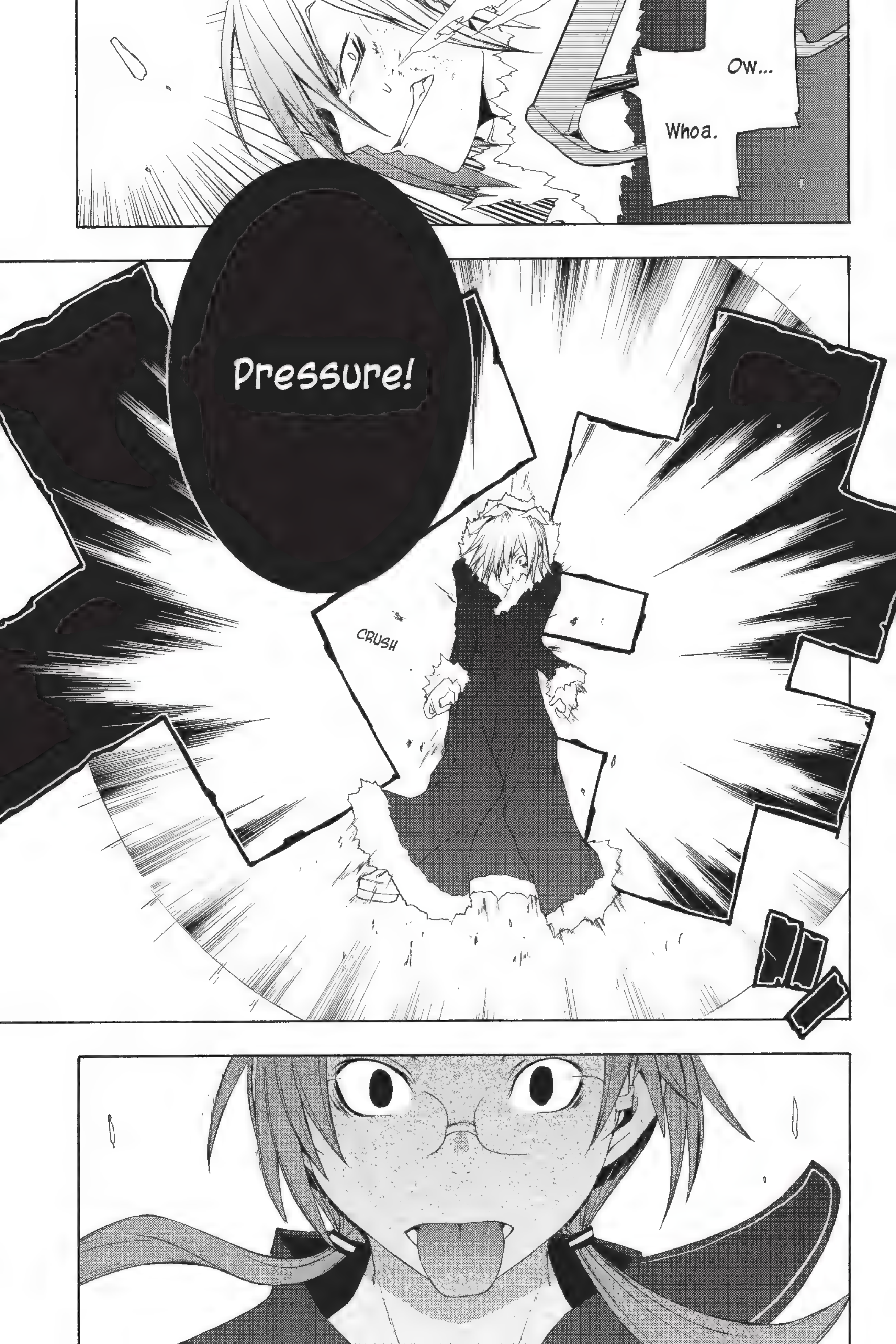

WOOSH
!
What's going on?!
So this is his power, huh?!
That was close!
SWING
Whoa!

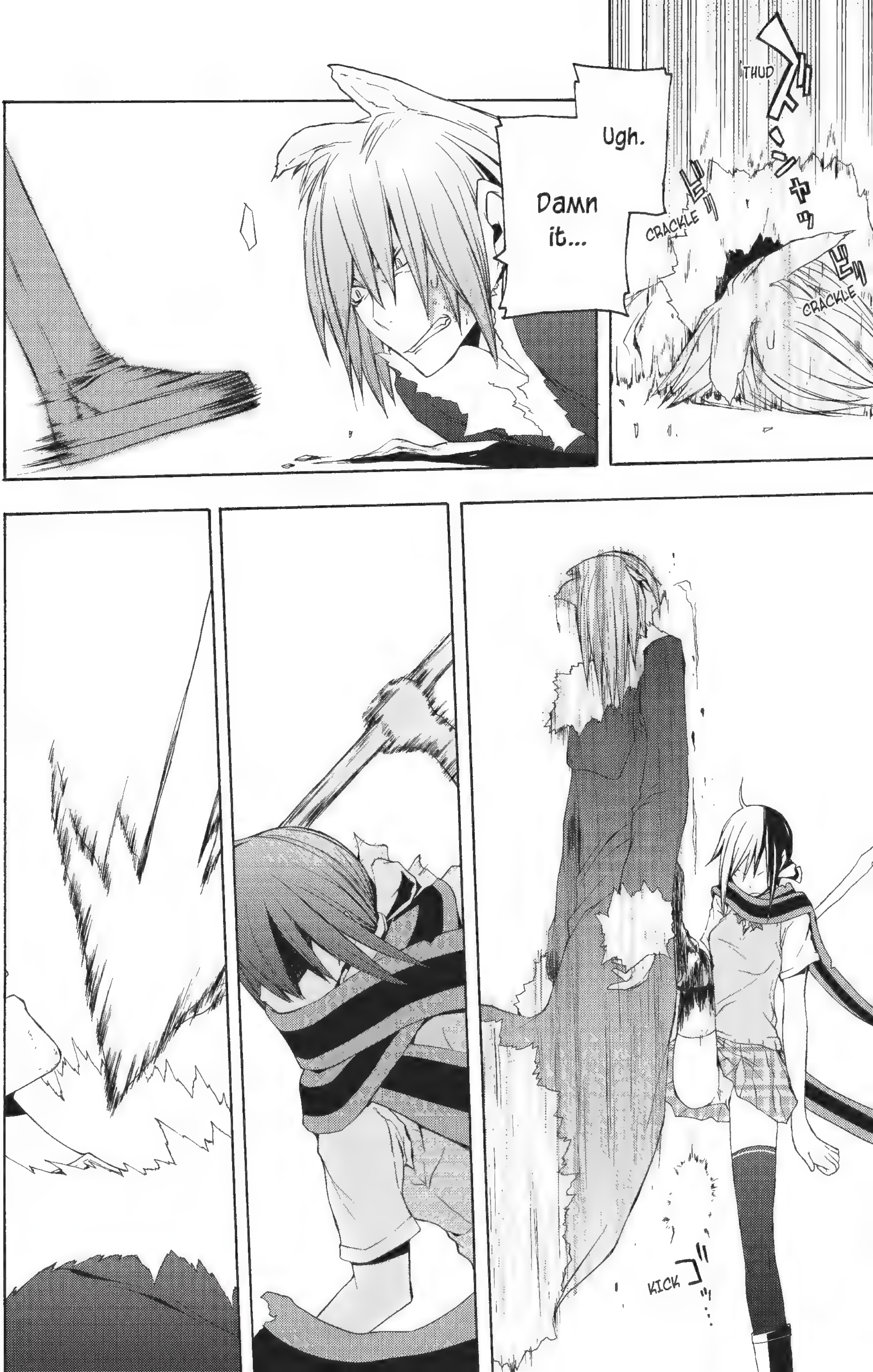

VOOSH
Shoot!
Just kidding.
ずいっ
ZUI
If it's an illusion...
I won't be scared of...
CRACKLE
FOOSH

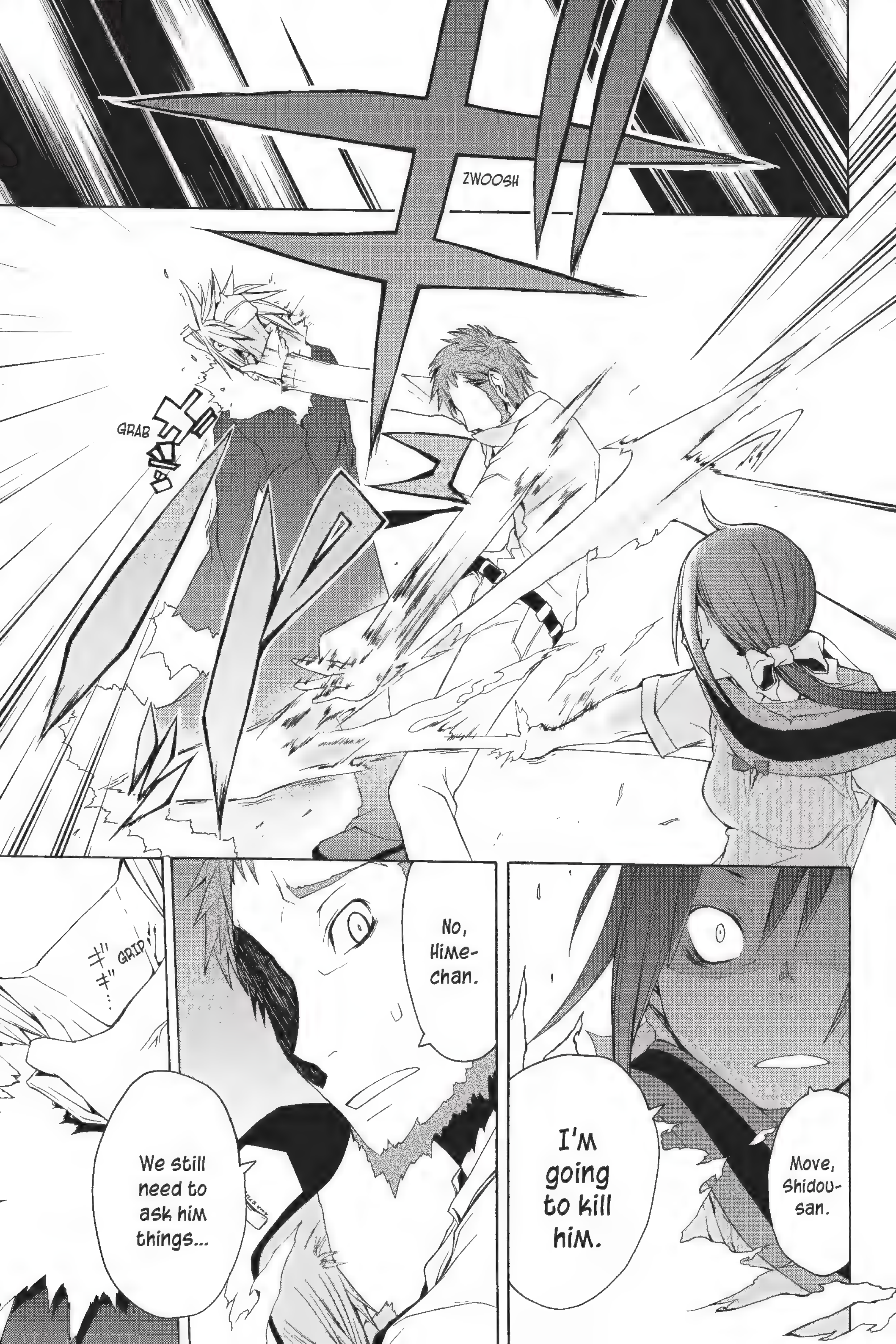

...it!
SHNK ドッ…
TURN グッ…
A fake-out...

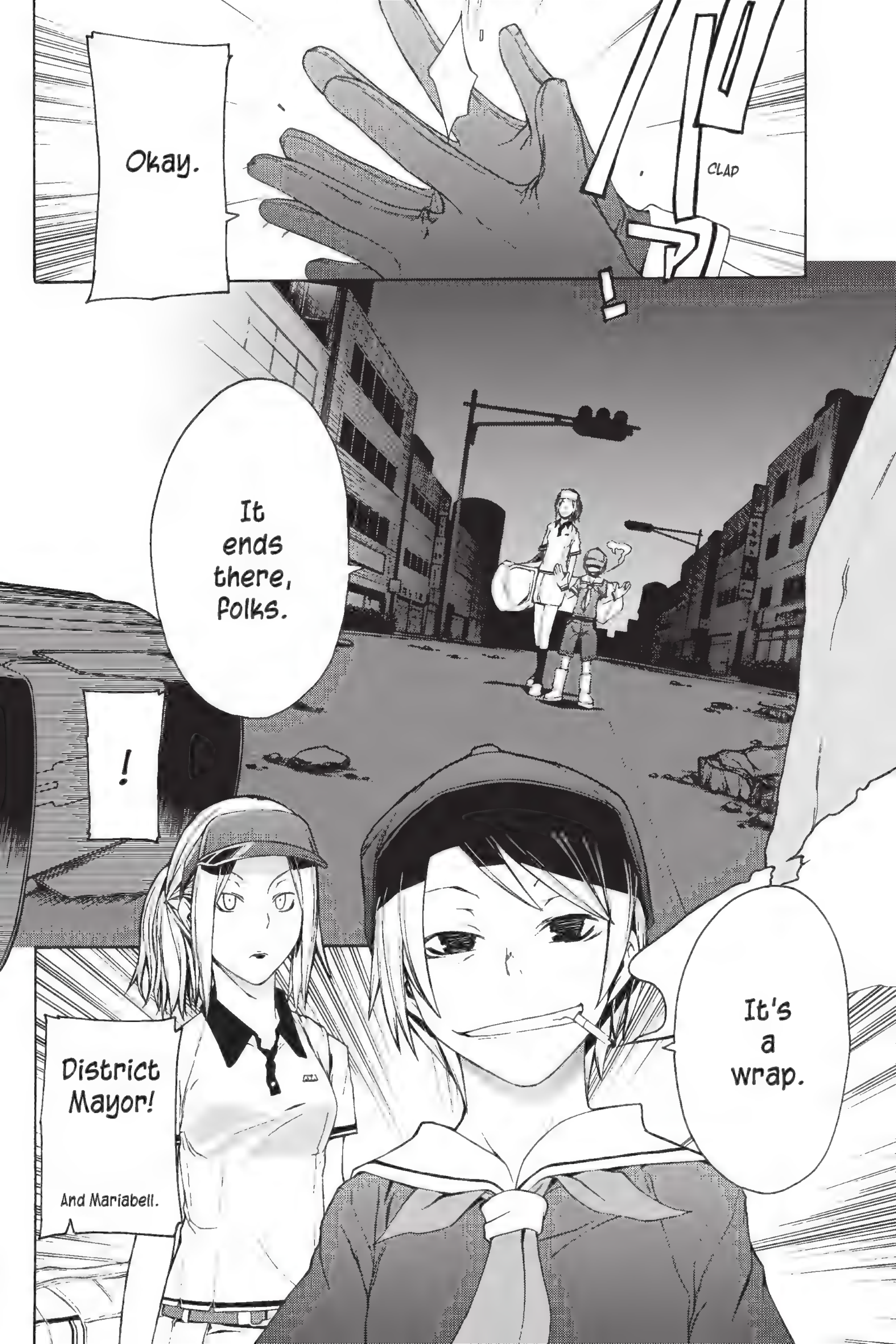

ド
ガッ
THUD
...doesn't do you any good unless you have something real, too.
......
...?

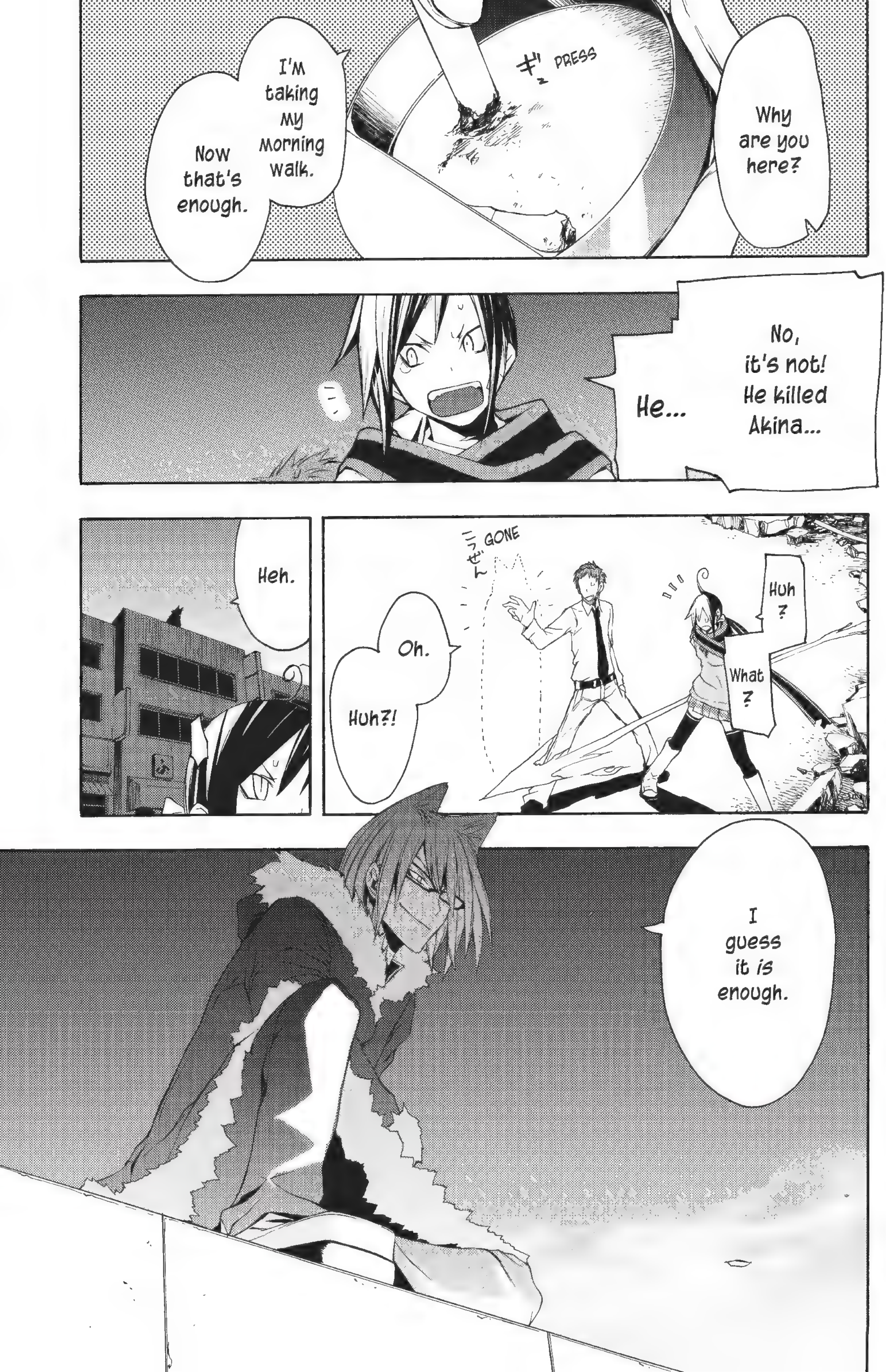

Urgh!
THUD

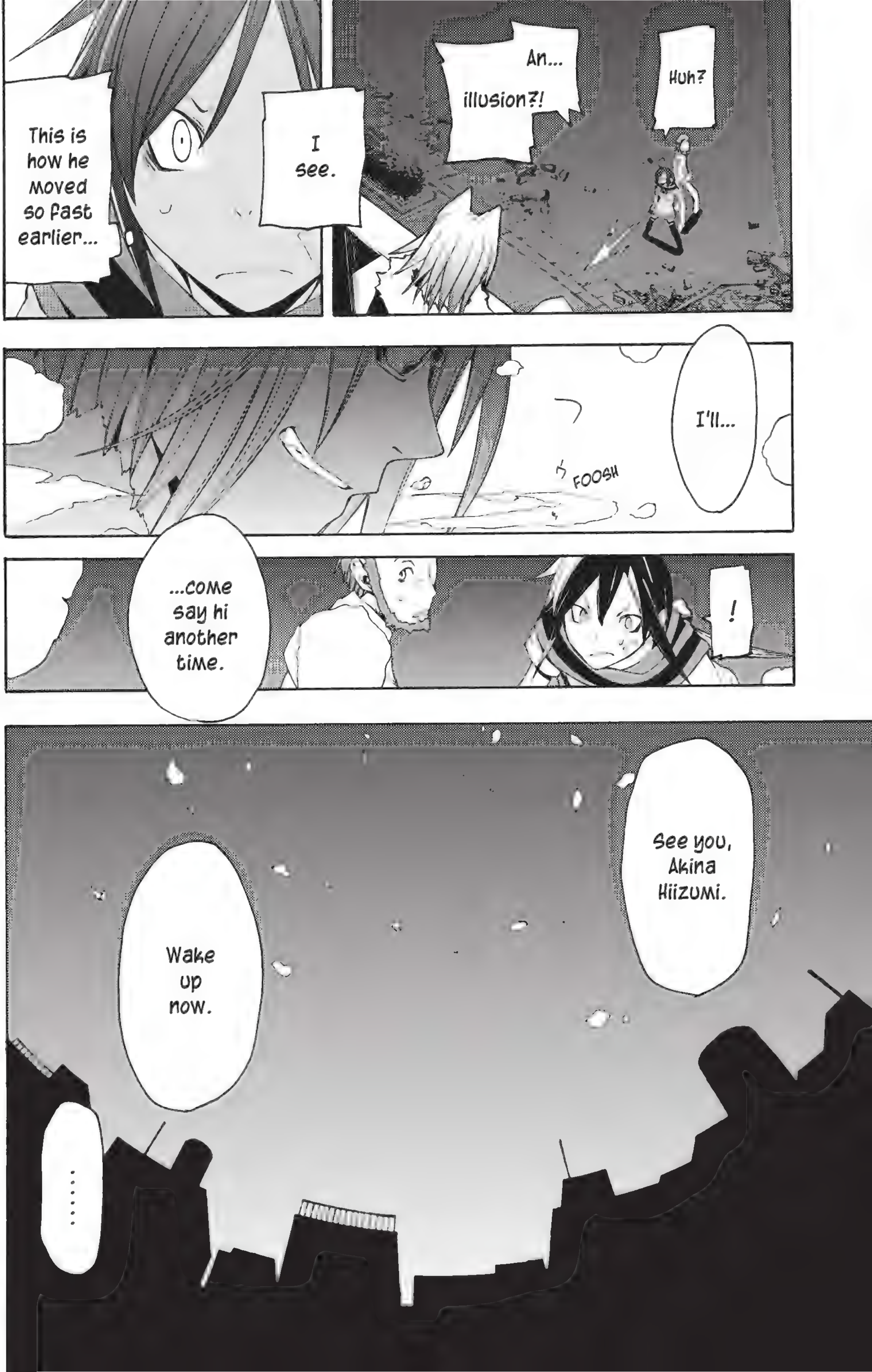

Ow...
Whoa.
Pressure!
CRUSH

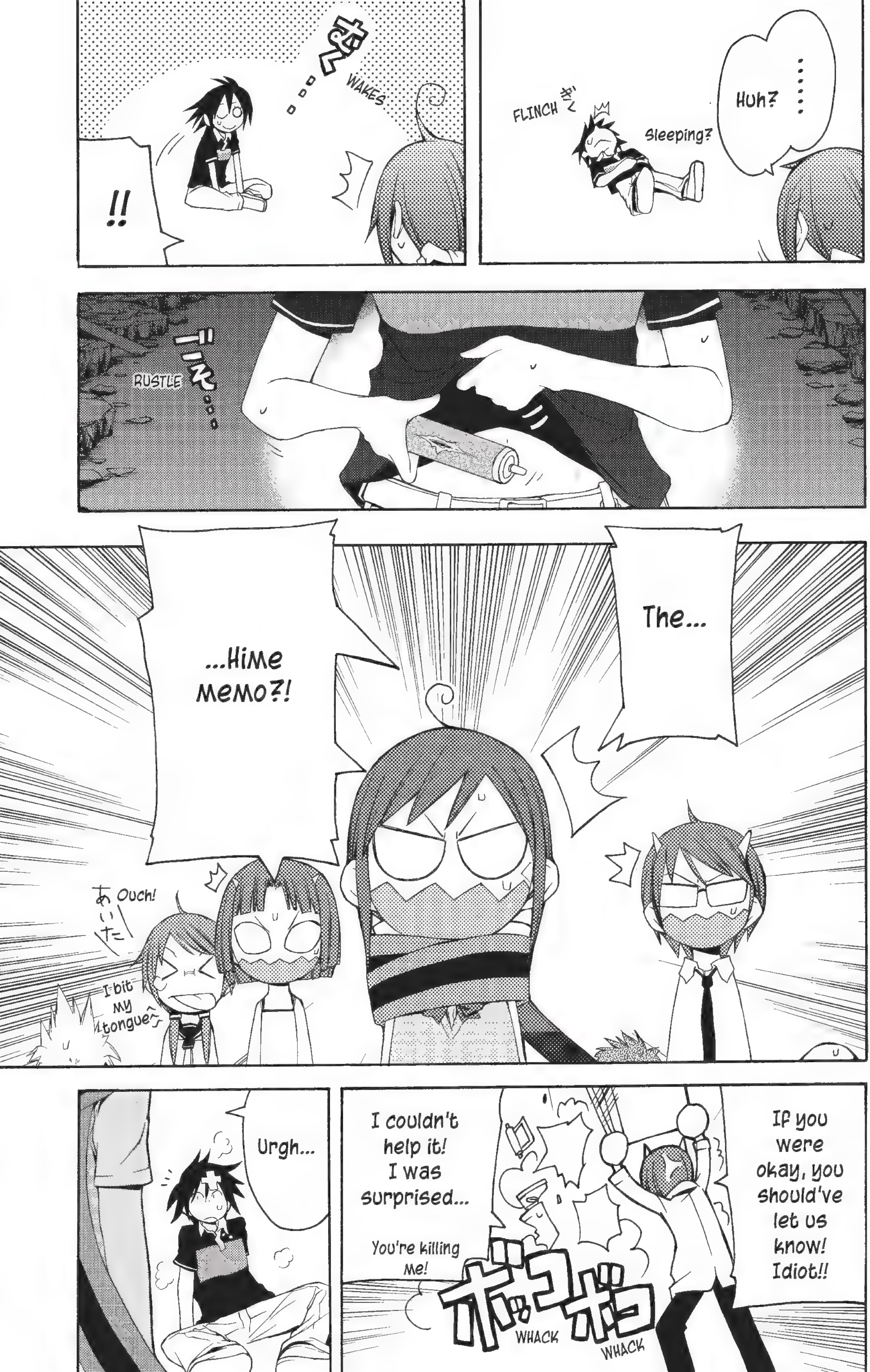

THUD
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
Ugh.
Damn it...
KICK

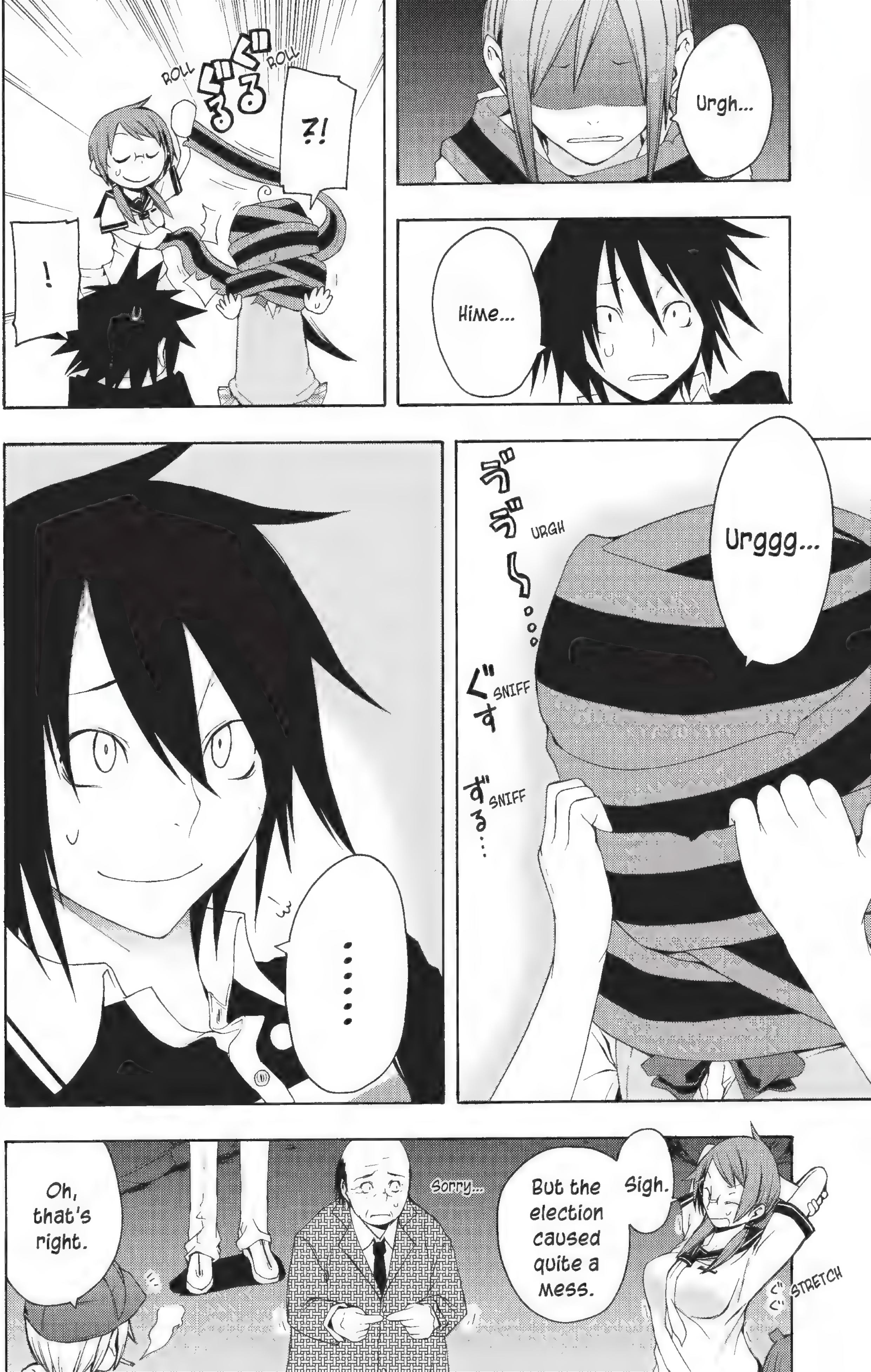

ZWOOSH
GRAB
Move, Shidou-san.
I'M going to kill him.
No, Hime-chan.
We still need to ask him things...
ギギ… GRIP

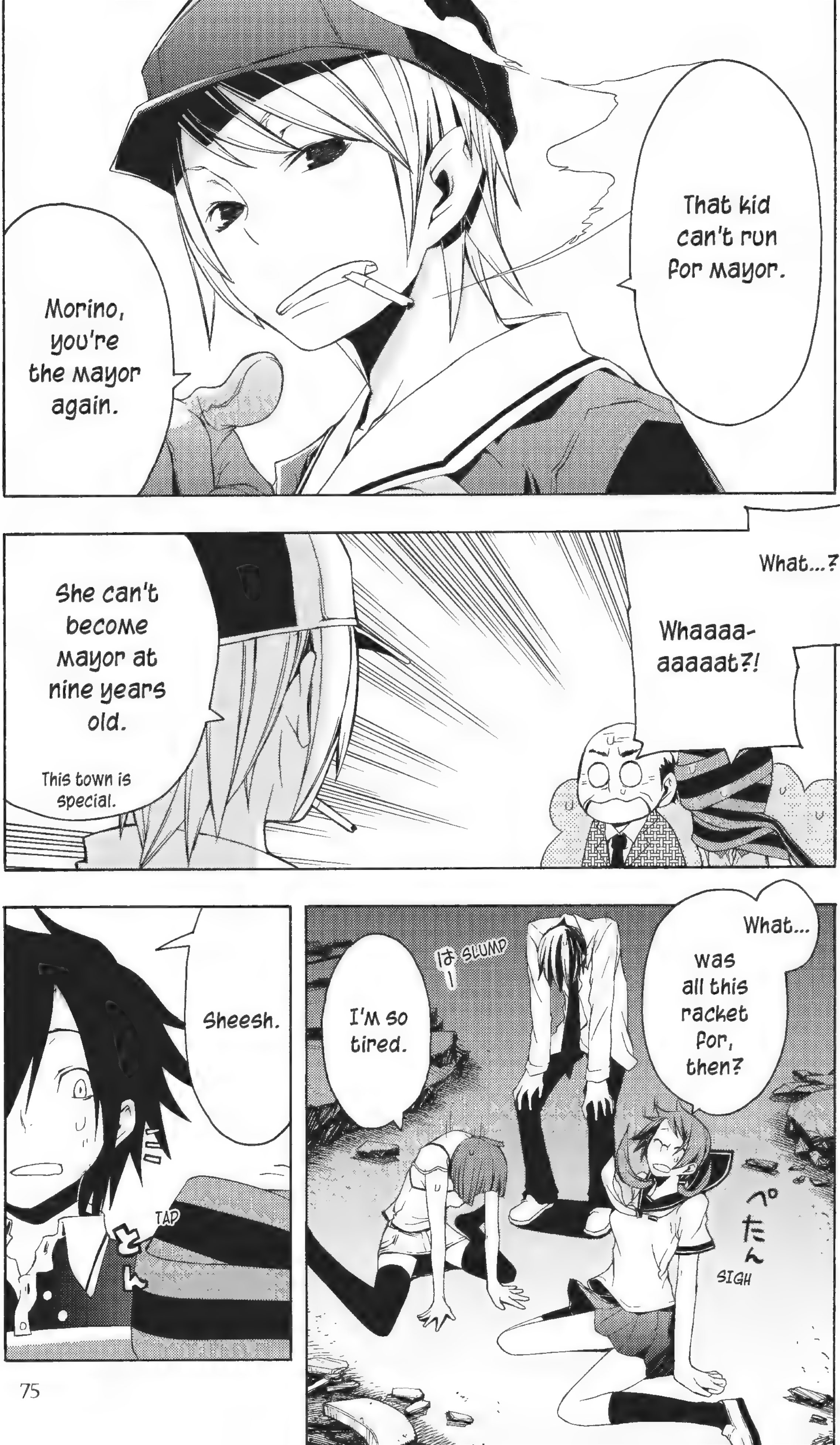

CLAP
Okay.
!
It ends there, folks.
!
It's a wrap.
District Mayor!
And Mariabell.

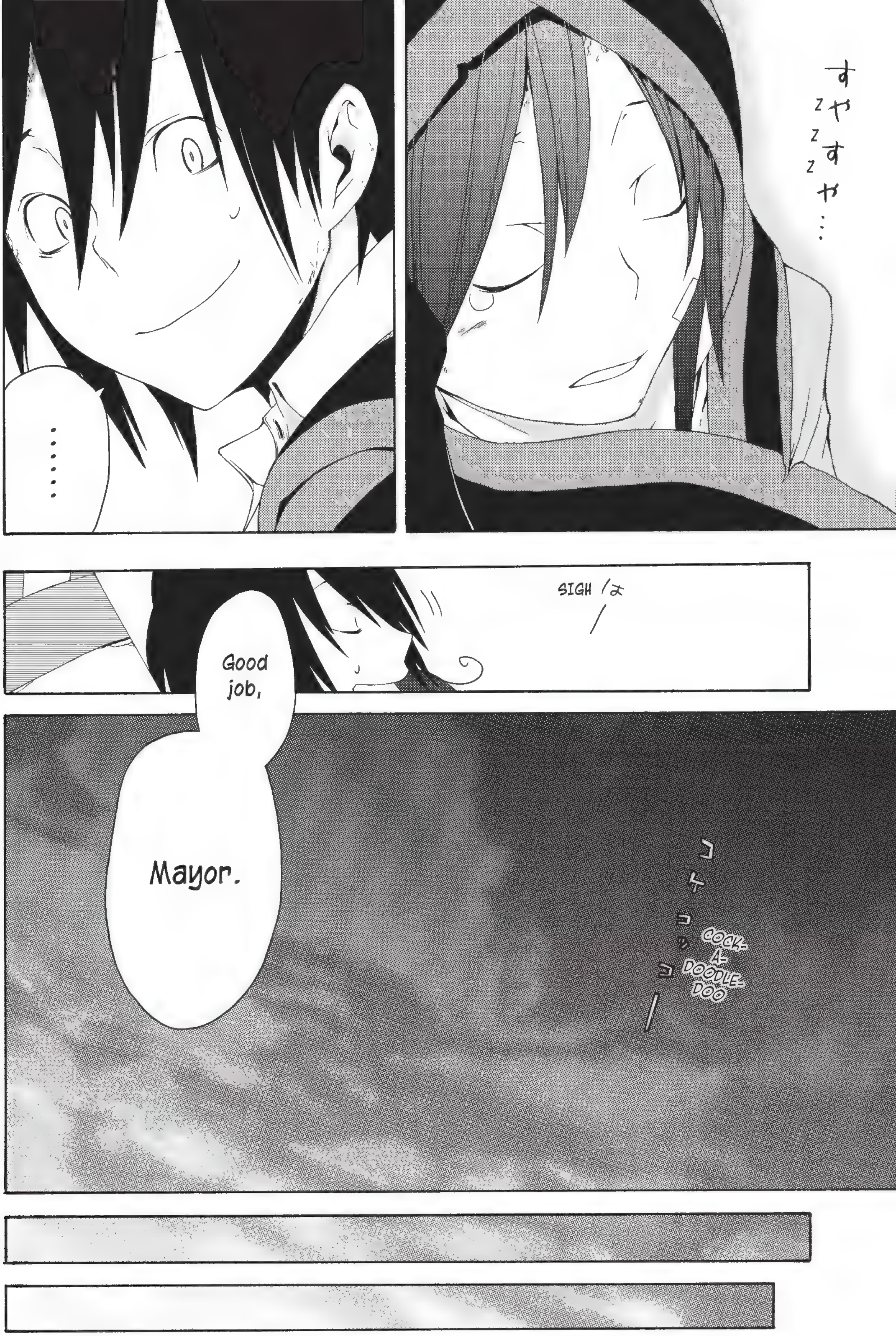

Why are you here?
ギ PRESS
I'm taking my morning walk.
Now that's enough.
No, it's not! He killed Akina...
He...
Huh?
What?
GONE
Oh.
Huh?!
Heh.
I guess it *is* enough.

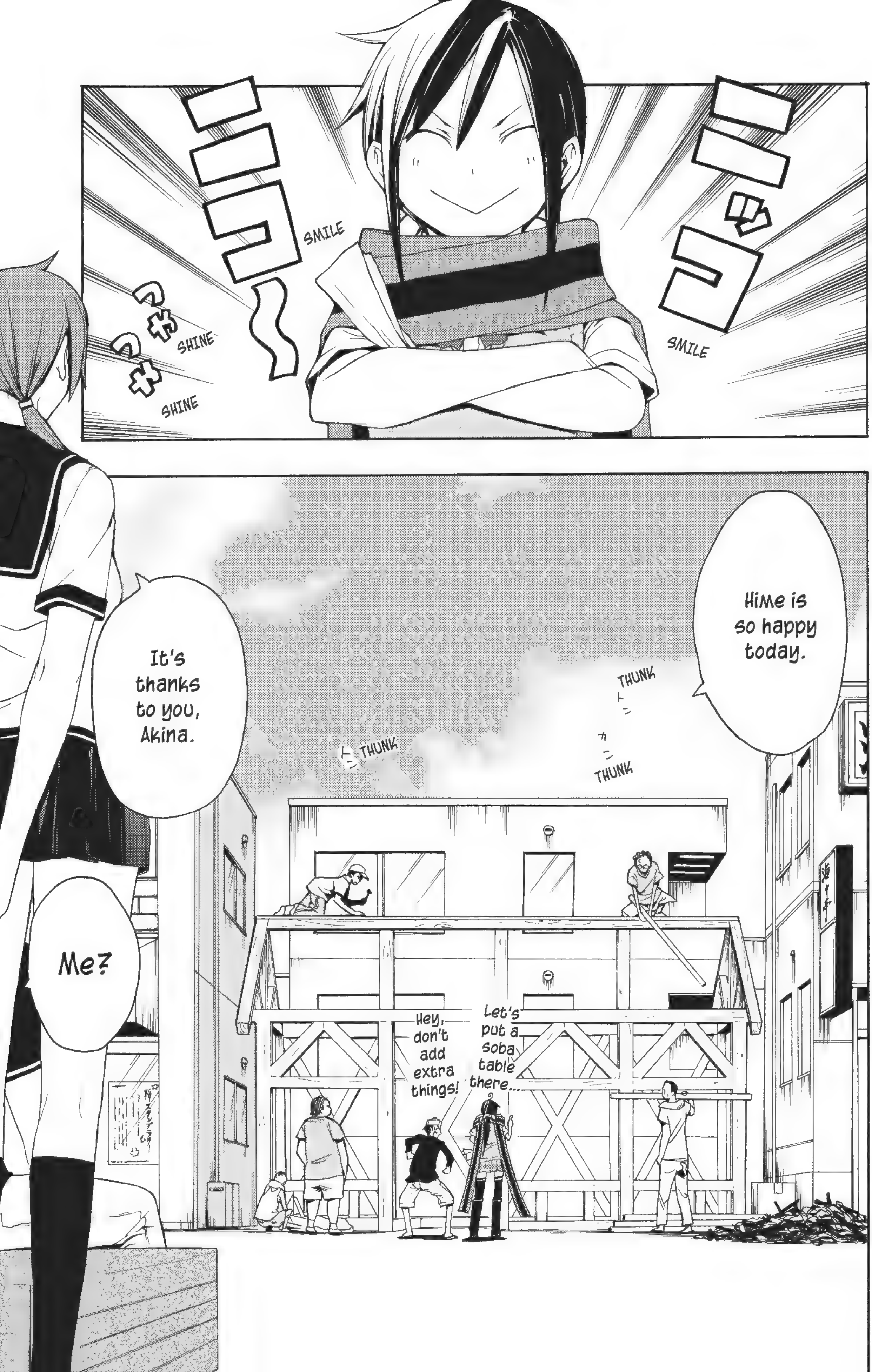

Huh?
An... illusion?!
I see.
This is how he moved so fast earlier...
I'll...
FOOSH
!
...come say hi another time.
See you, Akina Hiizumi.
Wake up now.
......

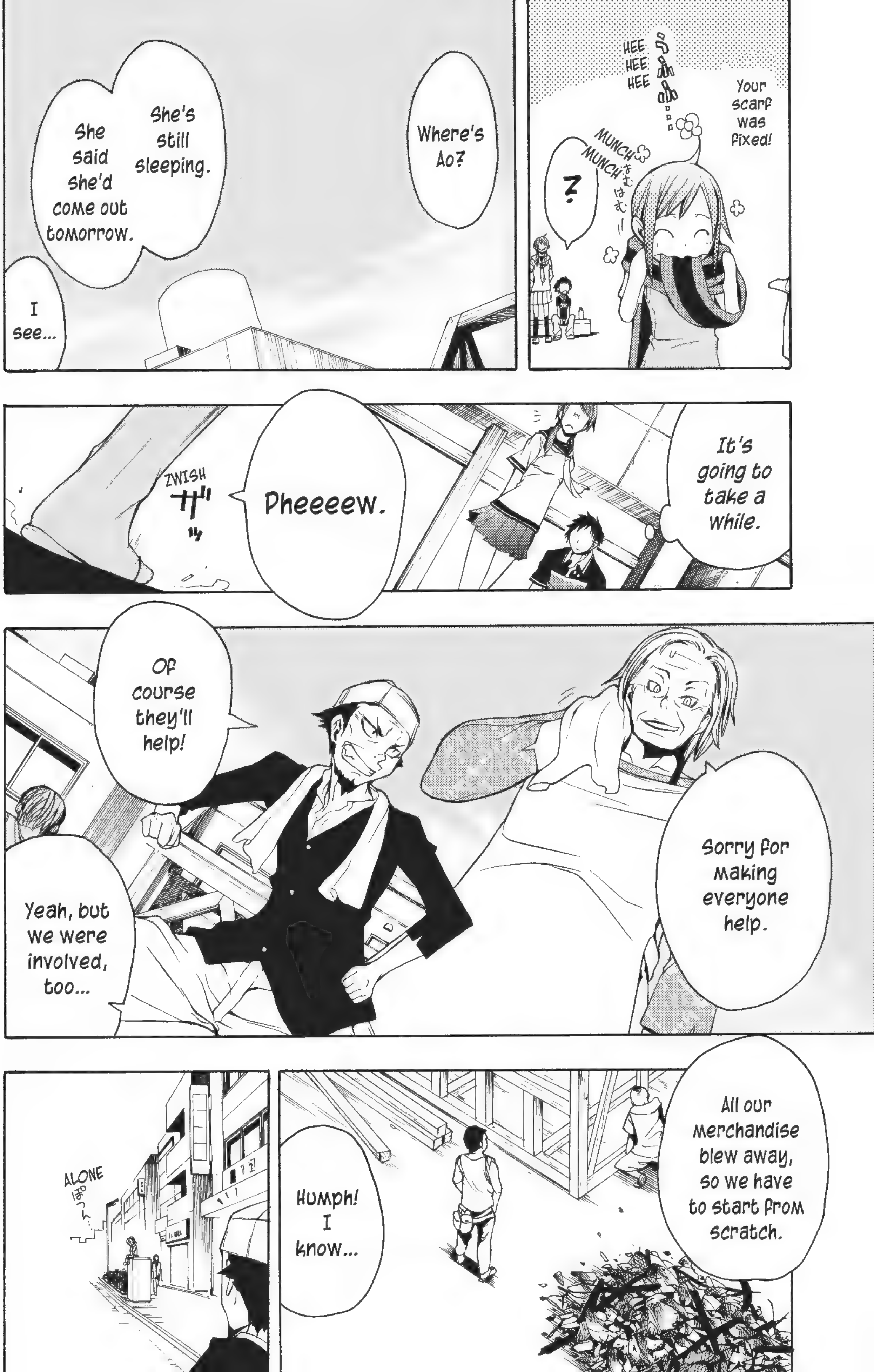

Huh? ......
Sleeping?
FLINCH ぎく
!!
むく。。。
WAKES
ごそ。。。
RUSTLE
The...
...Hime Memo?!
あいた Ouch!
I bit my tongue^^;
If you were okay, you should've let us know! Idiot!!
I couldn't help it! I was surprised...
You're killing me!
ボッコボコ
WHACK
WHACK
Urgh...

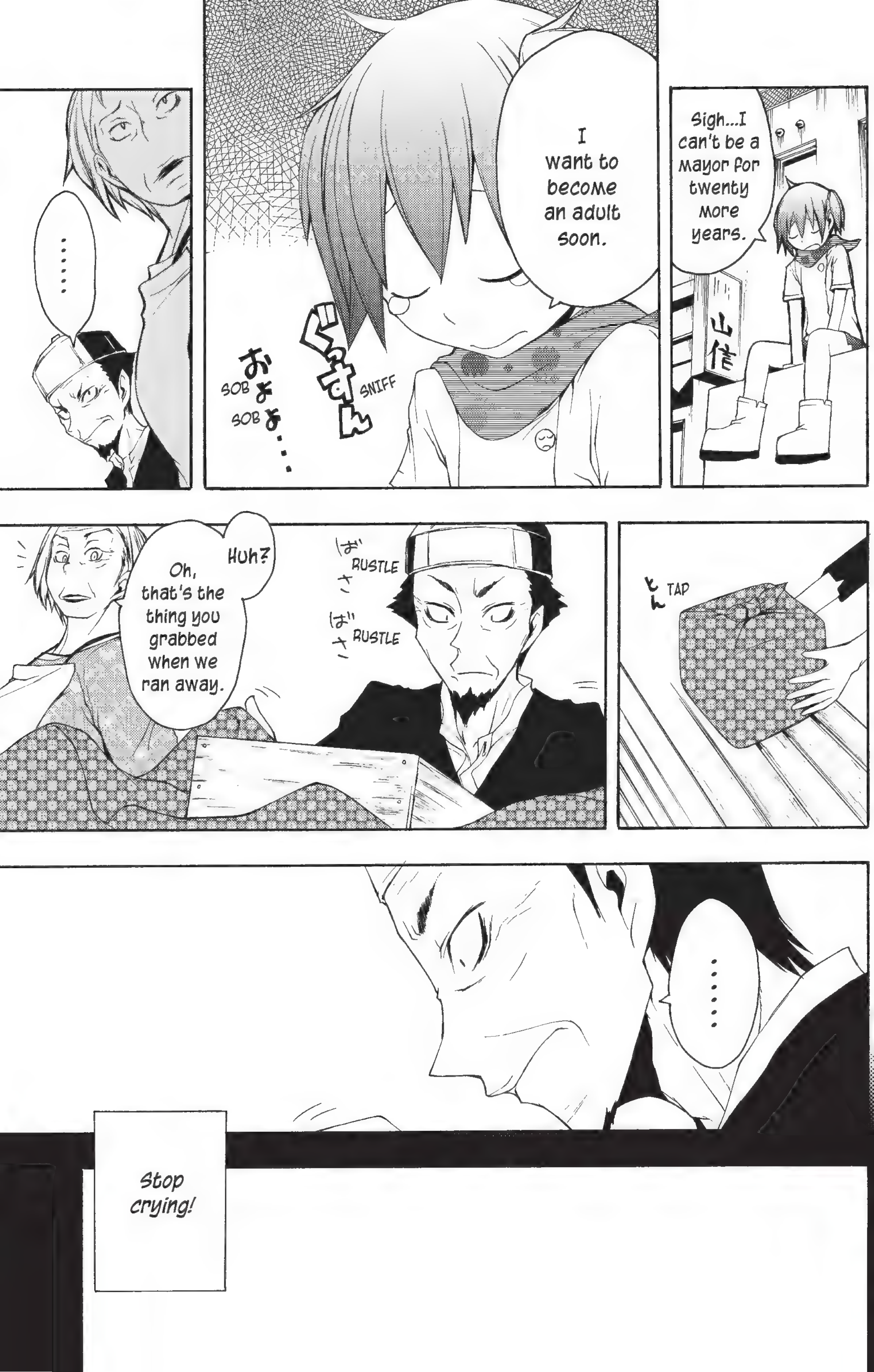

Urgh...
Hime...
ぐるぐる ROLL ROLL
?!
!
Urggg...
ううう~… URGH
ぐす SNIFF
ずる… SNIFF
……
Sigh.
ぐい STRETCH
But the election caused quite a mess.
Sorry...
Oh, that's right.

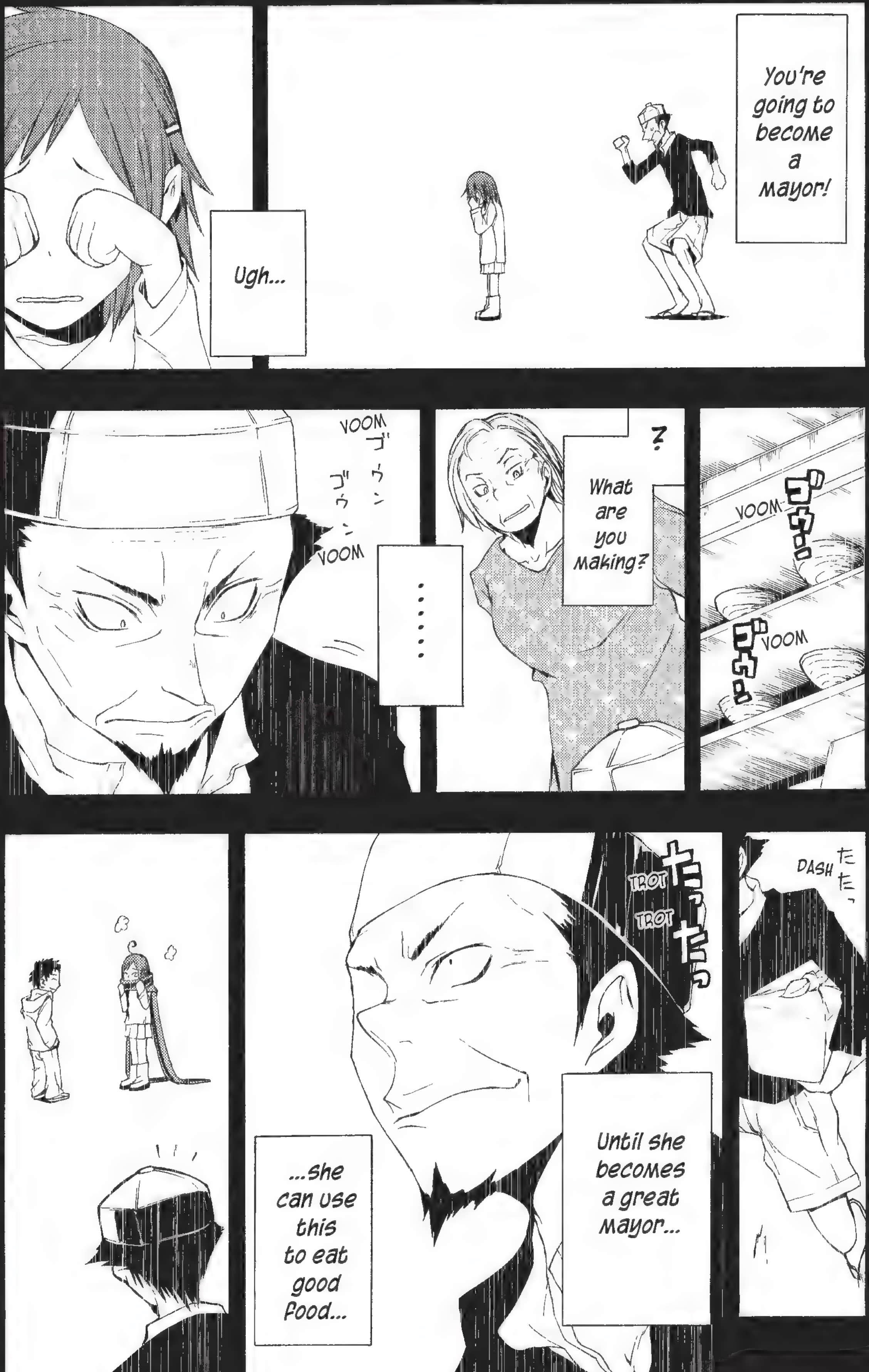

That kid can't run for mayor.
Morino, you're the mayor again.
What...?
Whaaaa-aaaaat?!
She can't become mayor at nine years old.
This town is special.
What... was all this racket for, then?
ぺたん SIGH
はー SLUMP
I'm so tired.
Sheesh.
とん TAP

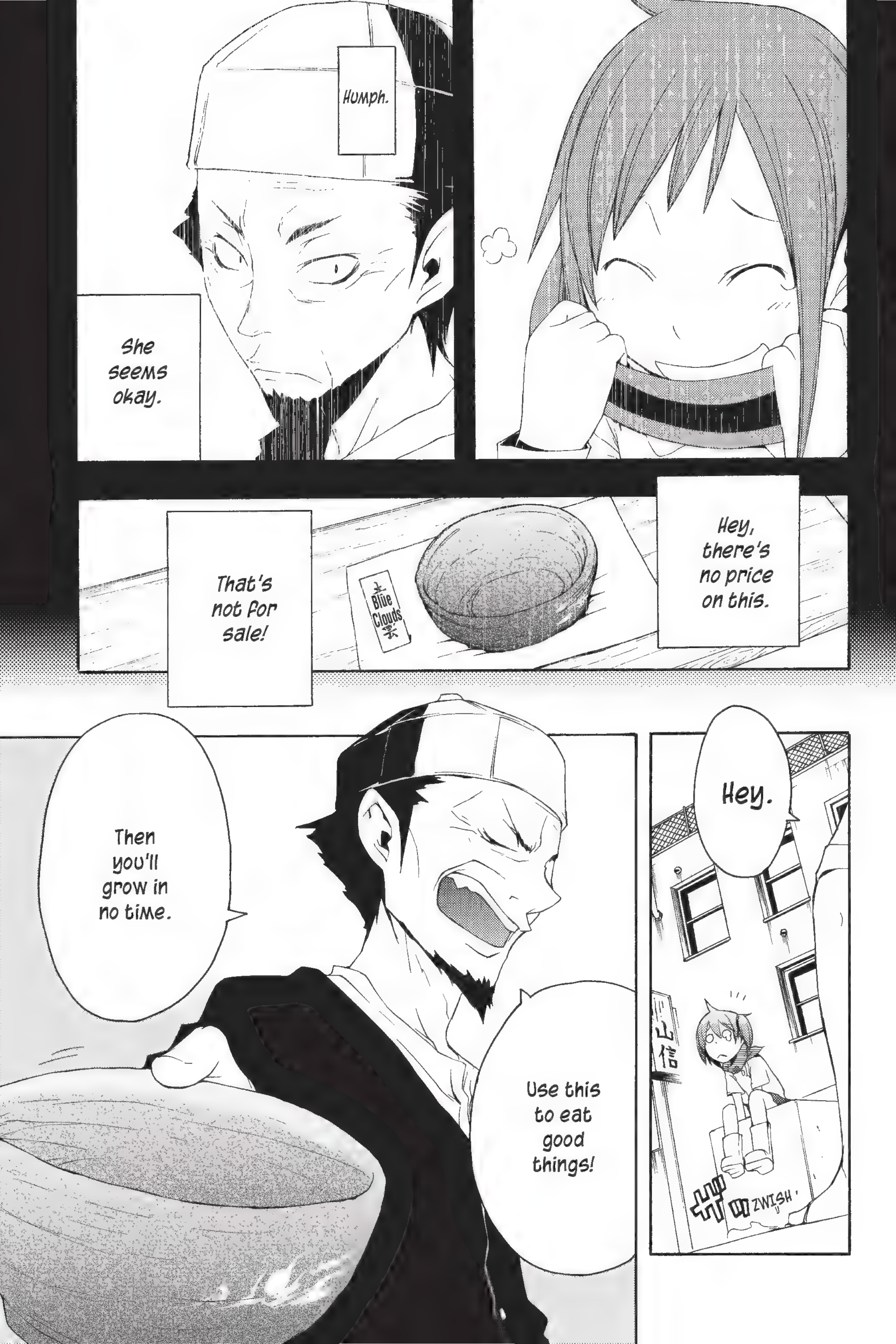

すやすや…
zzz
……
SIGH
Good job,
Mayor.
コケコッコー
COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO

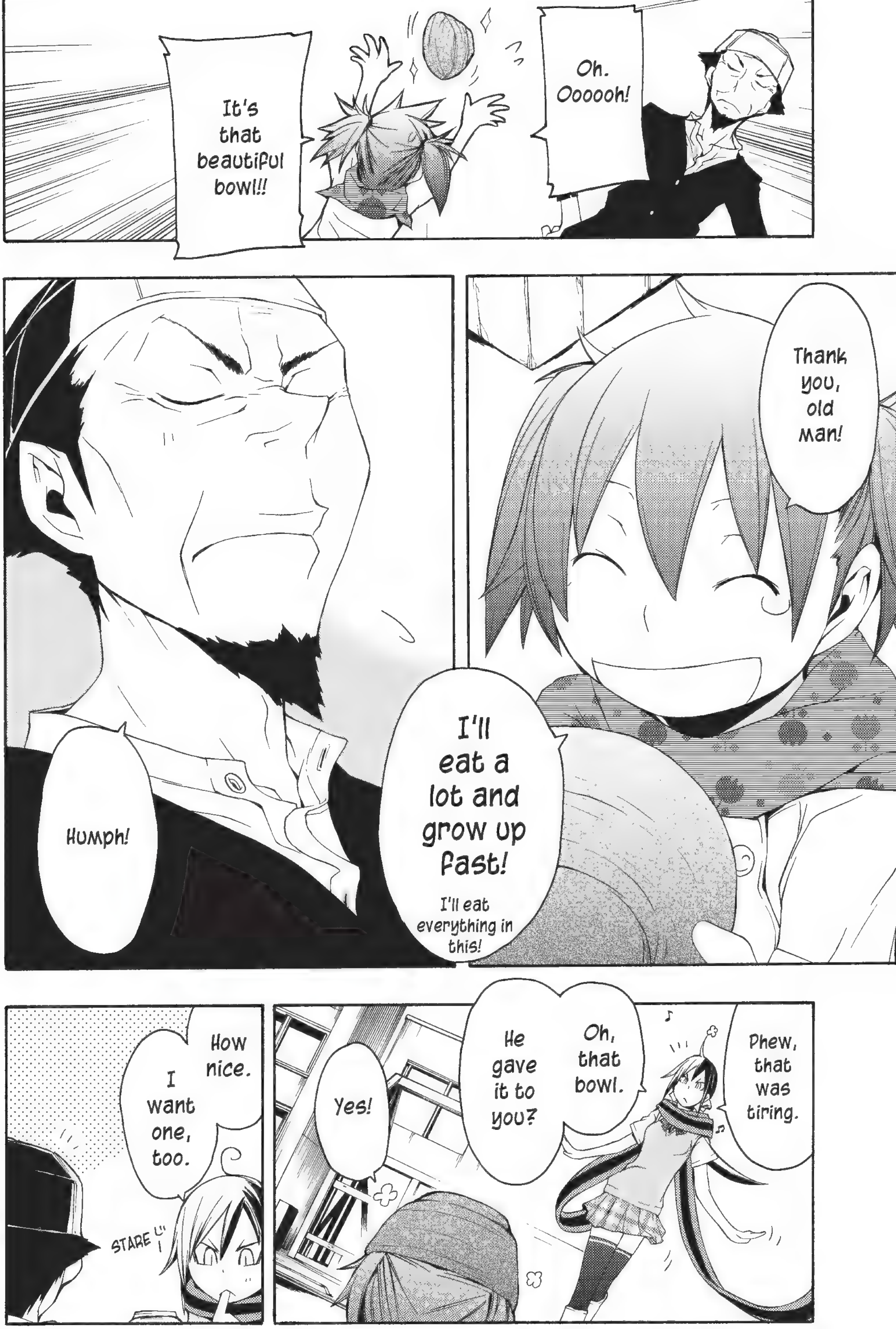

ニッコ
SMILE
ニコ～
SMILE
ツヤ
SHINE
ツヤ
SHINE
Hime is so happy today.
THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
It's thanks to you, Akina.
Me?
Let's put a soba table there...
Hey, don't add extra things!

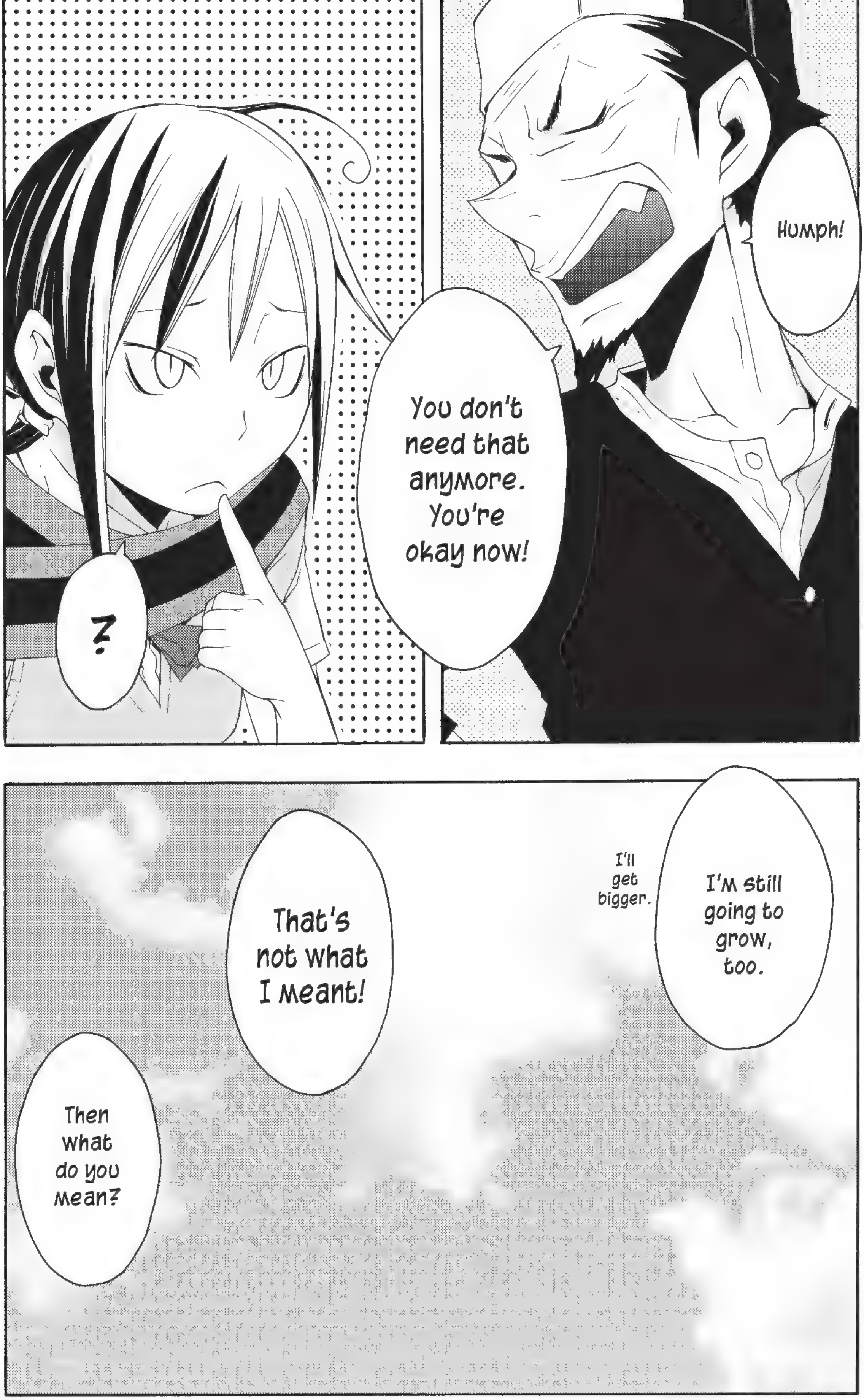

Your scarf was fixed!
HEE HEE HEE
MUNCH MUNCH はむはむ!
?
Where's Ao?
She's still sleeping.
She said she'd come out tomorrow.
I see...
It's going to take a while.
Pheeeew.
ZWISH ザッ
Sorry for making everyone help.
Of course they'll help!
Yeah, but we were involved, too...
All our merchandise blew away, so we have to start from scratch.
Humph! I know...
ALONE ぽつん...


Sigh...I can't be a mayor for twenty more years.
山信
I want to become an adult soon.
ぐっすん
SNIFF
およよ…
SOB SOB
......
とん
TAP
ばさ
RUSTLE
ばさ
RUSTLE
Huh?
Oh, that's the thing you grabbed when we ran away.
......
Stop crying!


You're going to become a Mayor!
Ugh...
VOOM
ゴウ
ゴウ
VOOM
?
What are you making?
VOOM
ゴウン
ゴウン
VOOM
......
DASH
たたた
TROT
TROT
たったっ
Until she becomes a great mayor...
...she can use this to eat good food...


Humph.
She seems okay.
Hey, there's no price on this.
Blue Clouds 青雲
That's not for sale!
Hey.
山信
ZWISH
Use this to eat good things!
Then you'll grow in no time.

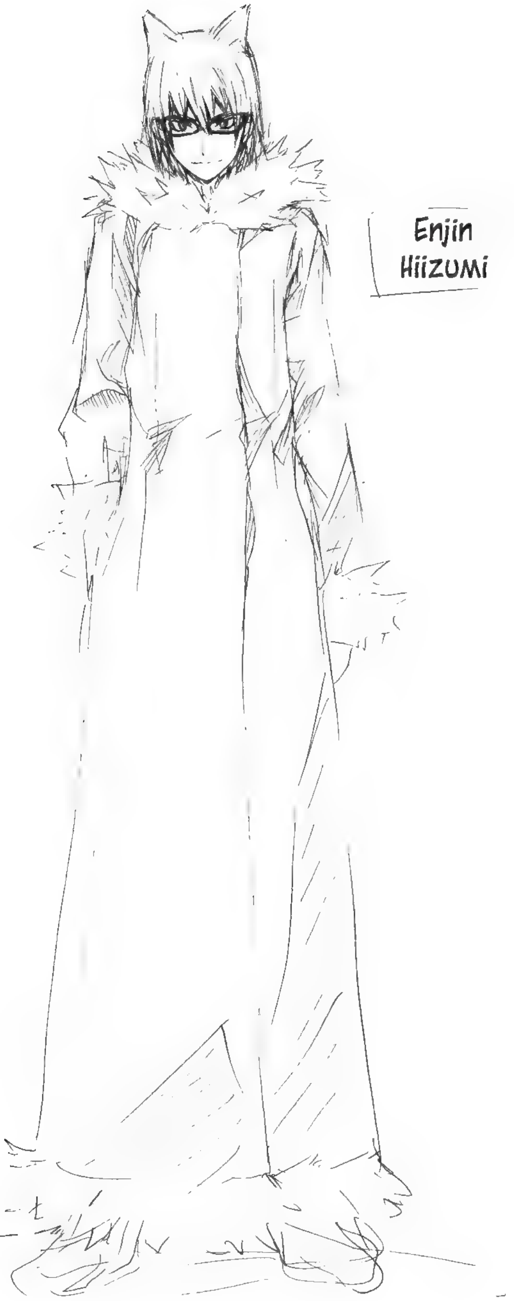

Oh. Oooooh!
It's that beautiful bowl!!
Thank you, old man!
I'll eat a lot and grow up fast!
I'll eat everything in this!
Humph!
Phew, that was tiring.
Oh, that bowl.
He gave it to you?
Yes!
How nice.
I want one, too.
STARE

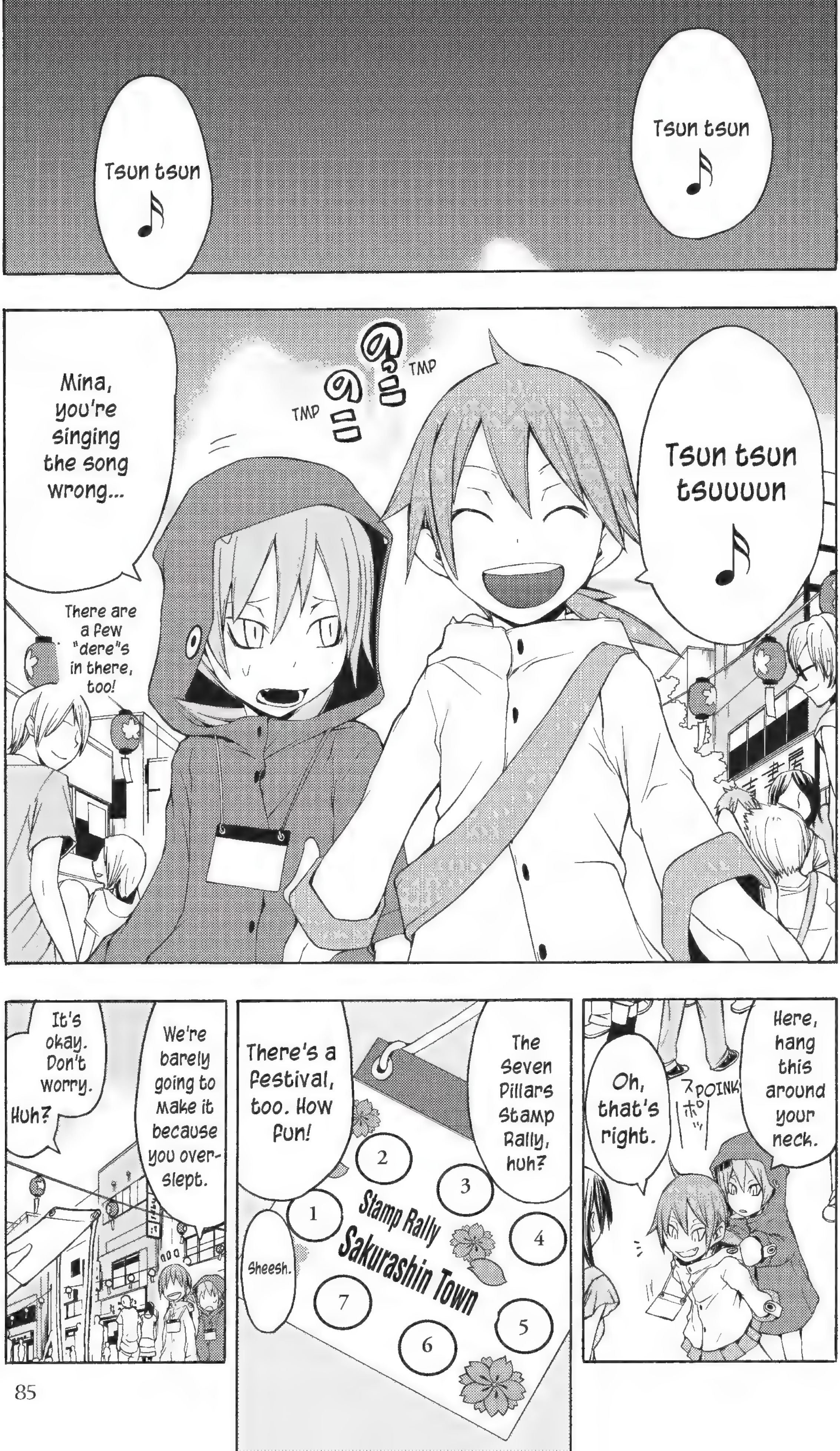

Humph!
You don't need that anymore. You're okay now!
?
I'm still going to grow, too.
I'll get bigger.
That's not what I meant!
Then what do you mean?

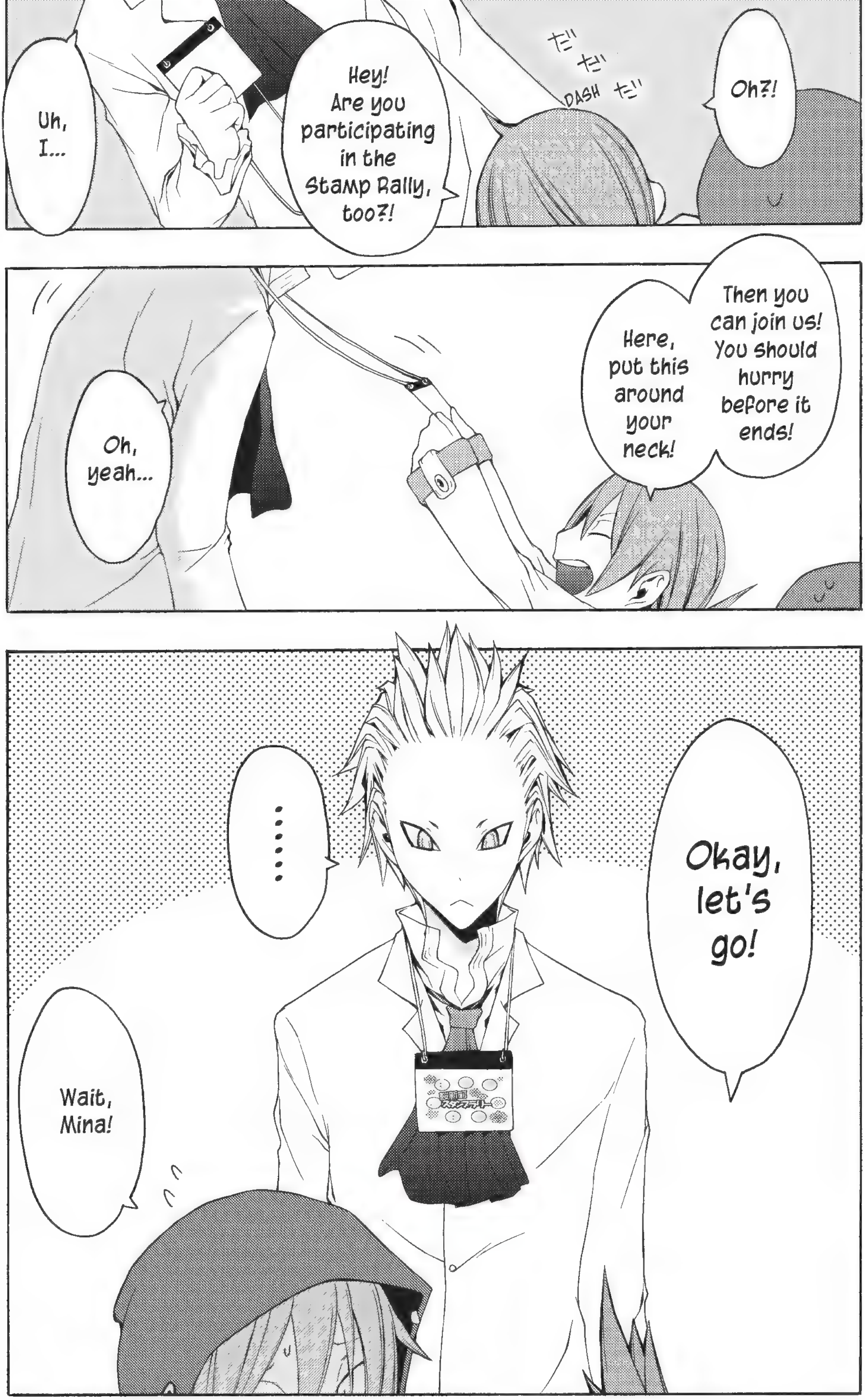
19th Night: Thorny Road (Part 9) END

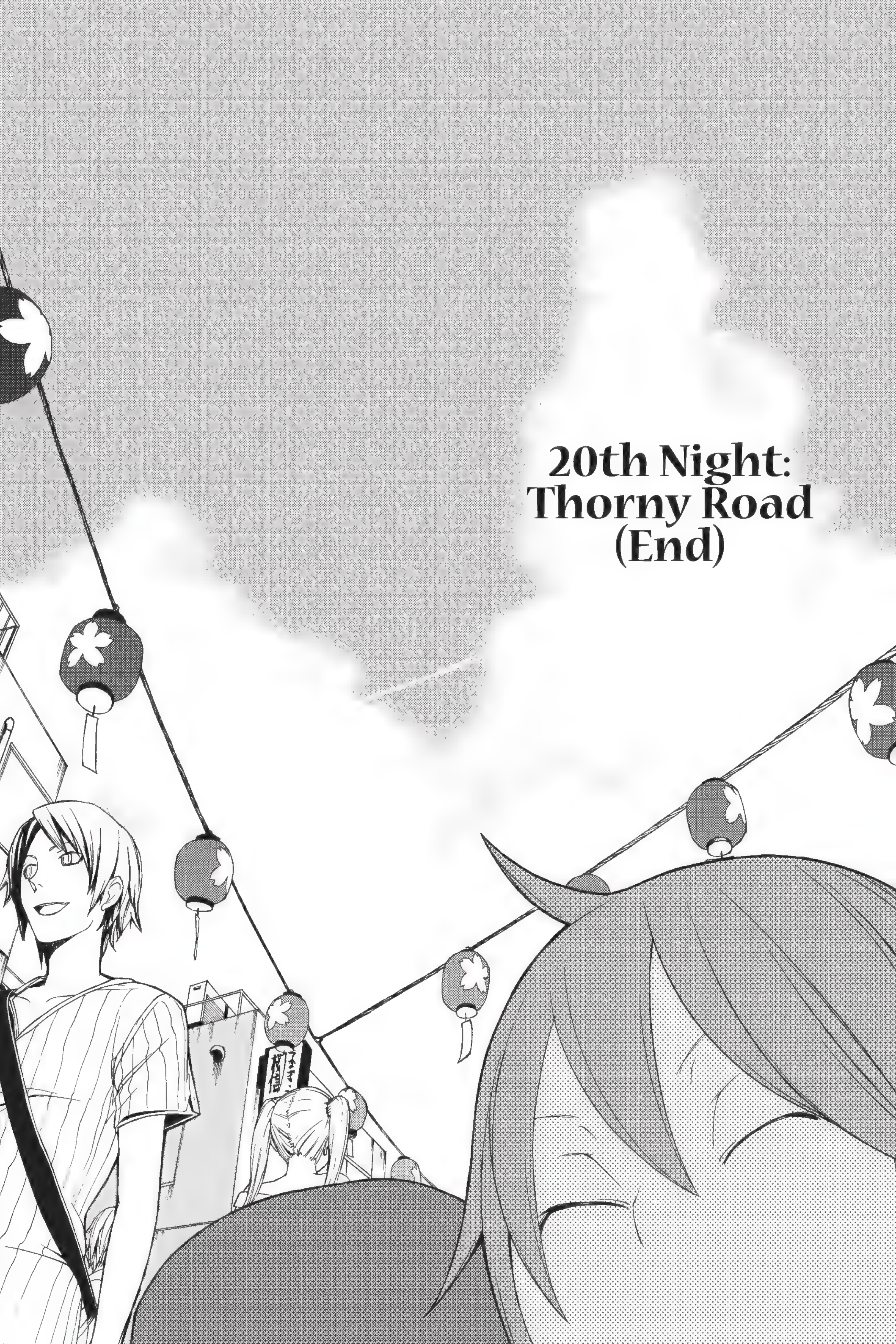
Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet

4

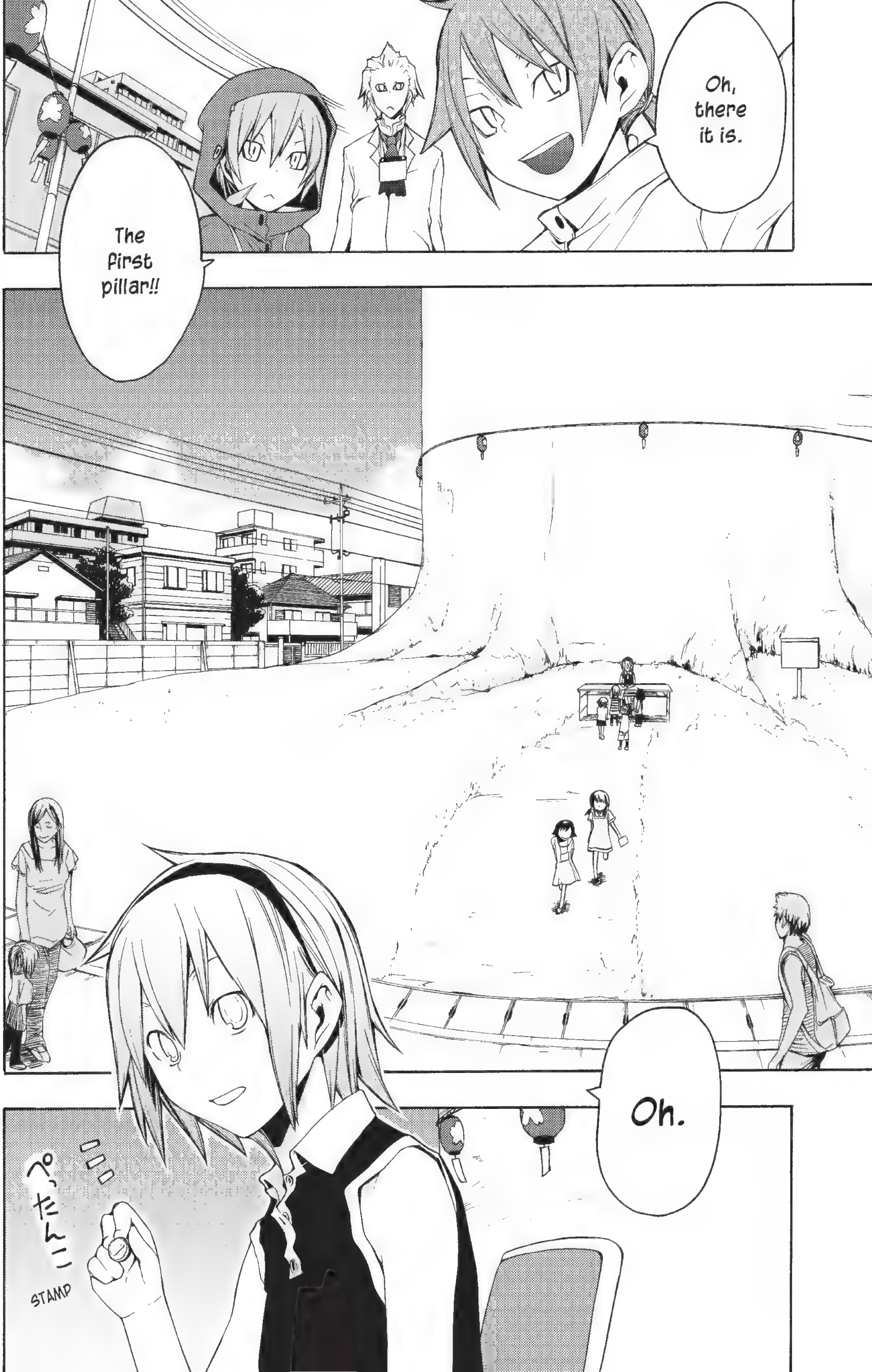

Enjin Hiizumi
179cm.

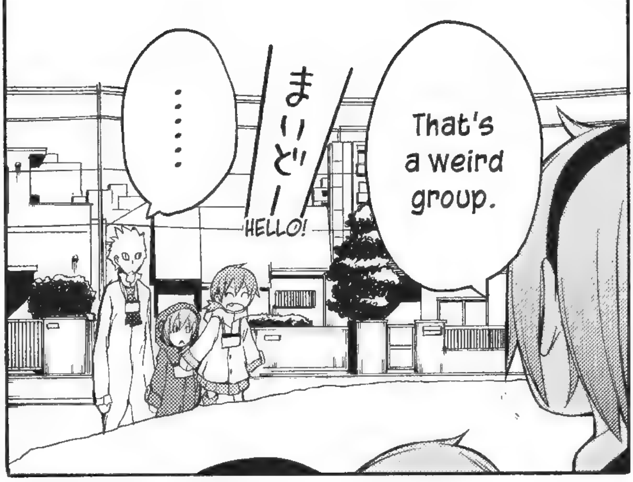

Tsun tsun ♪
Tsun tsun ♪
Tsun tsun tsuuuun ♪
TMP
TMP
Mina, you're singing the song wrong...
There are a few "dere"s in there, too!
Here, hang this around your neck.
POINK
Oh, that's right.
The Seven Pillars Stamp Rally, huh?
There's a festival, too. How fun!
Sheesh.
Stamp Rally Sakurashin Town
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
We're barely going to make it because you overslept.
It's okay. Don't worry.
Huh?

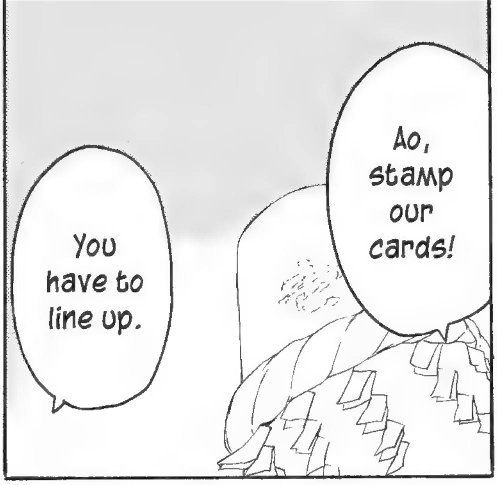

Oh?!
だ だ だ DASH
Hey! Are you participating in the Stamp Rally, too?!
Uh, I...
Then you can join us! You should hurry before it ends!
Here, put this around your neck!
Oh, yeah...
Okay, let's go!
......
Wait, Mina!

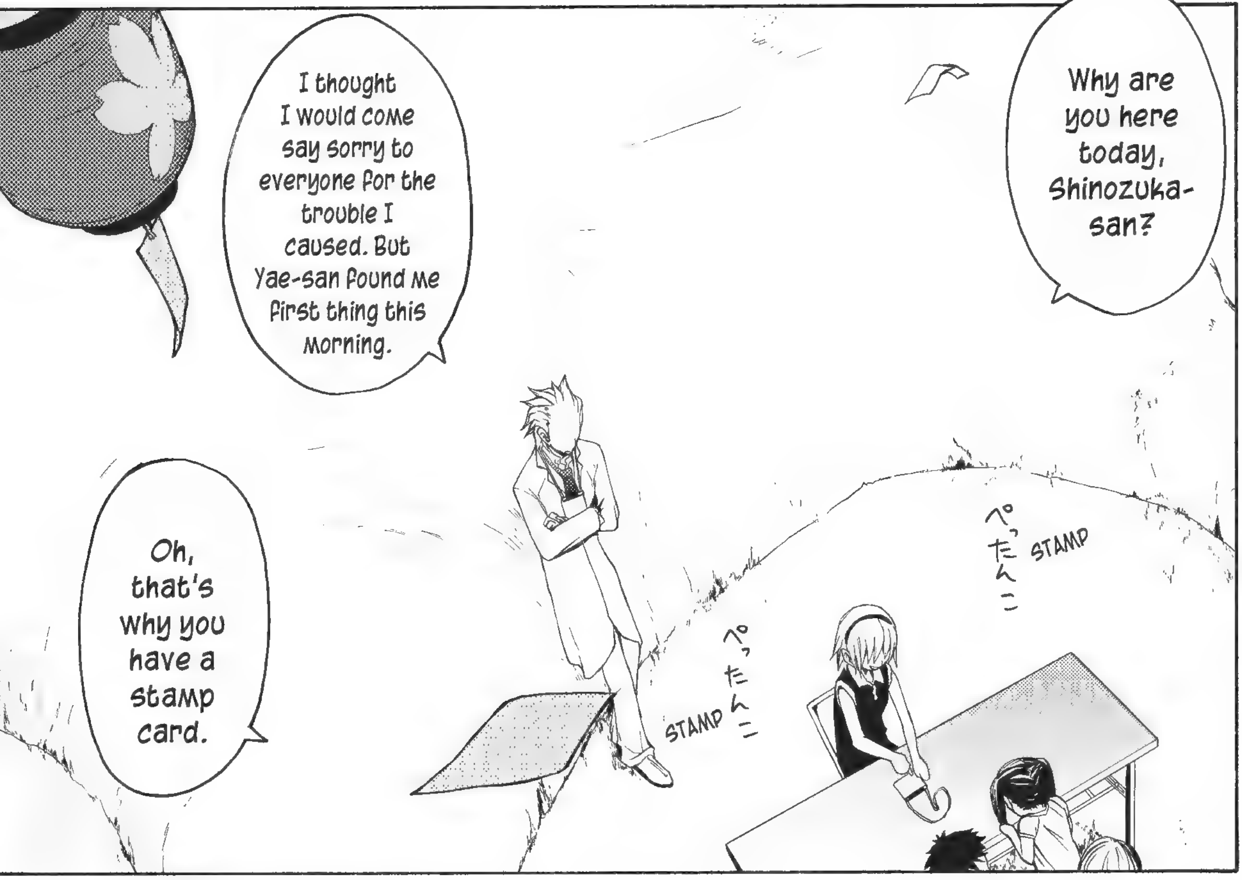


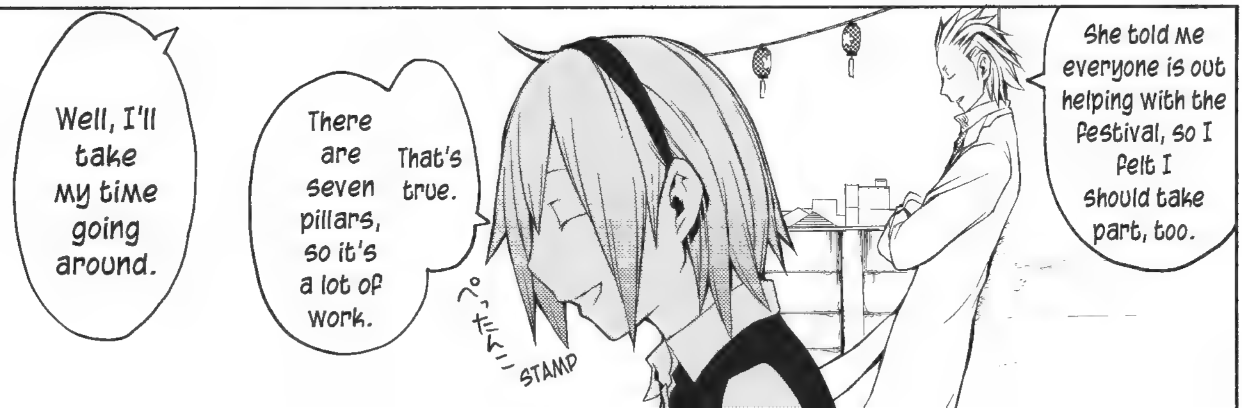
20th Night: Thorny Road (End)

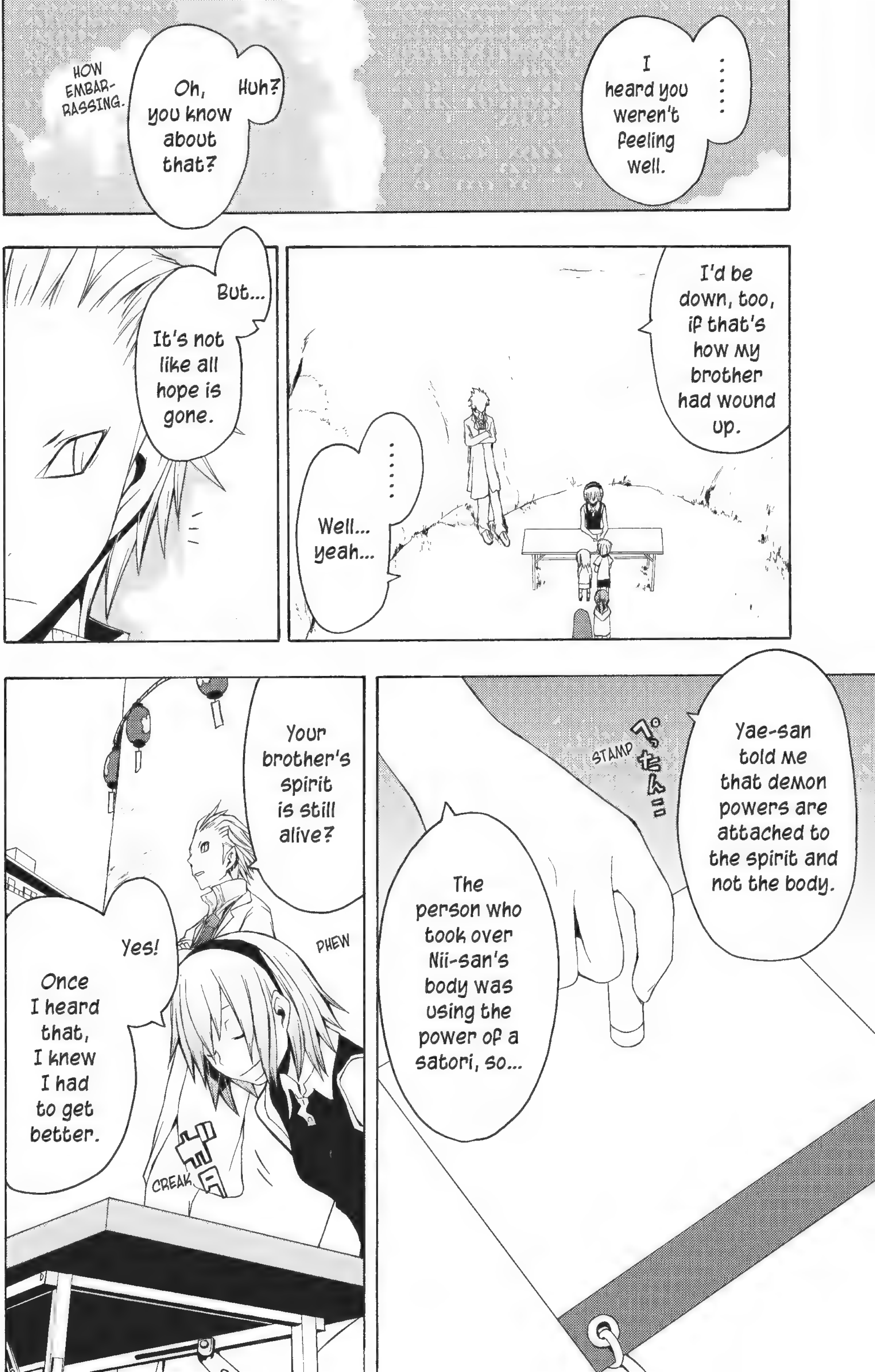

Oh, there it is.
The first pillar!!
Oh.
ぺたんこ
STAMP

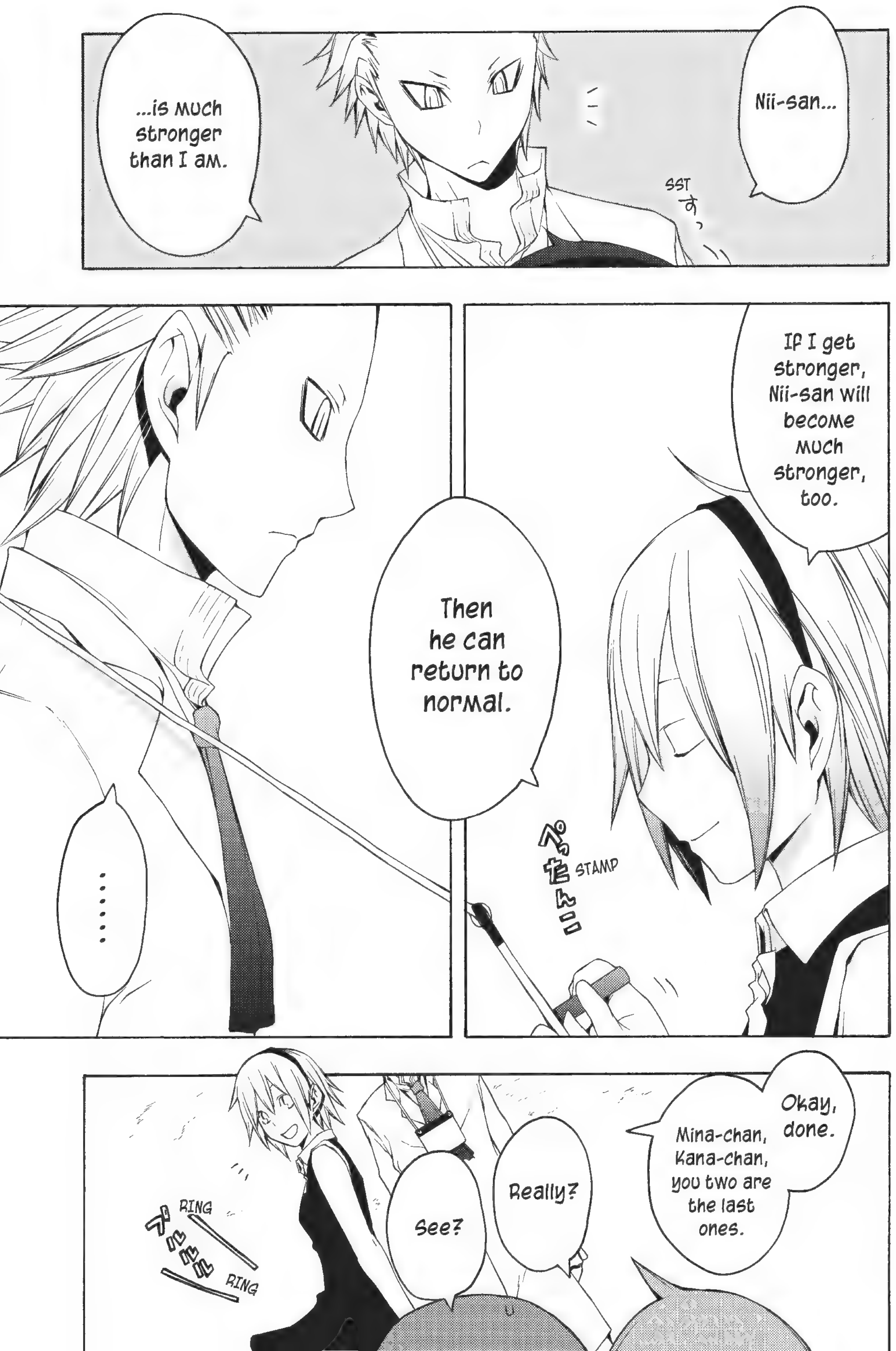

That's a weird group.
まいど！
HELLO!
……

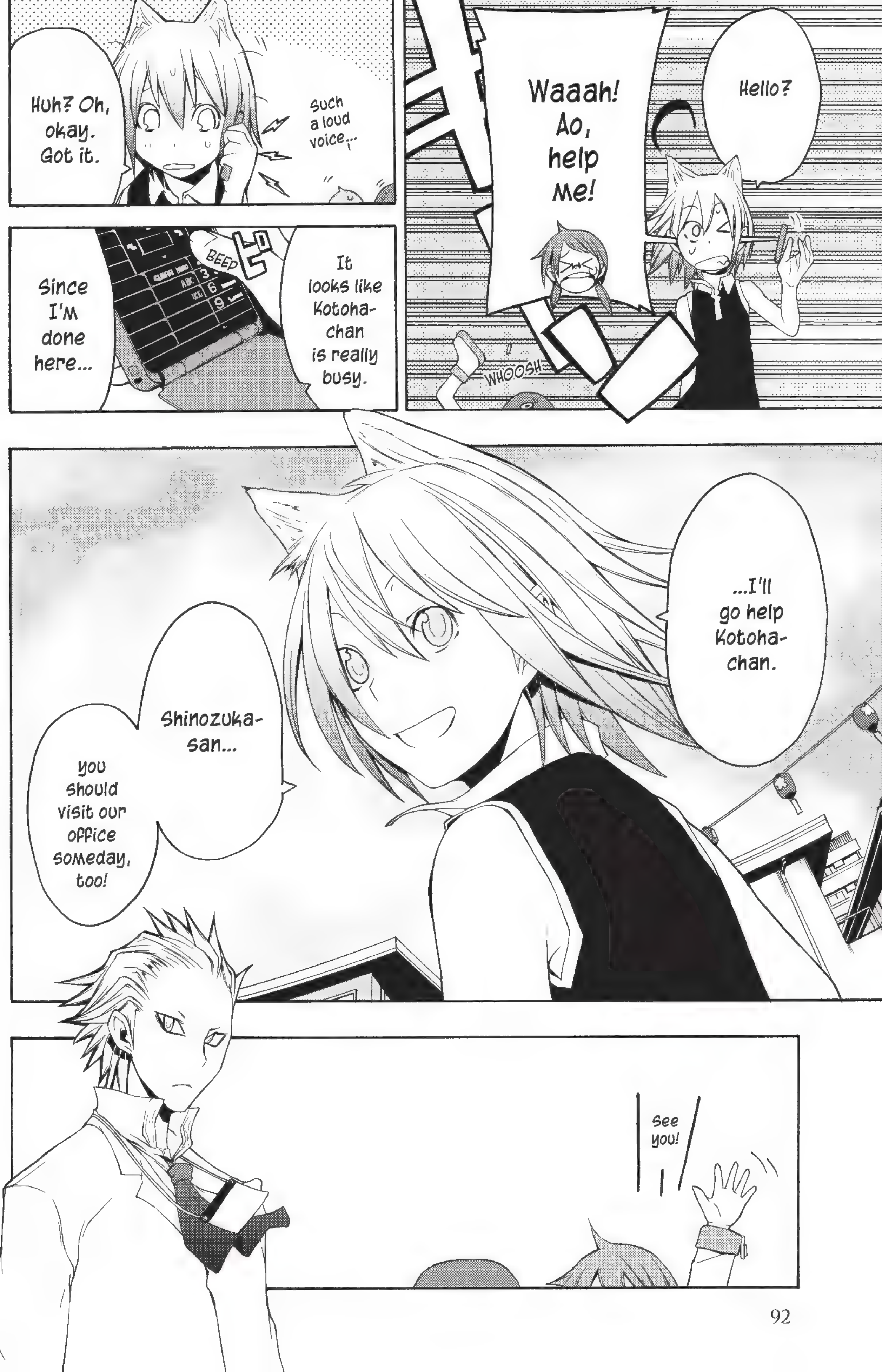

Ao, stamp our cards!
You have to line up.

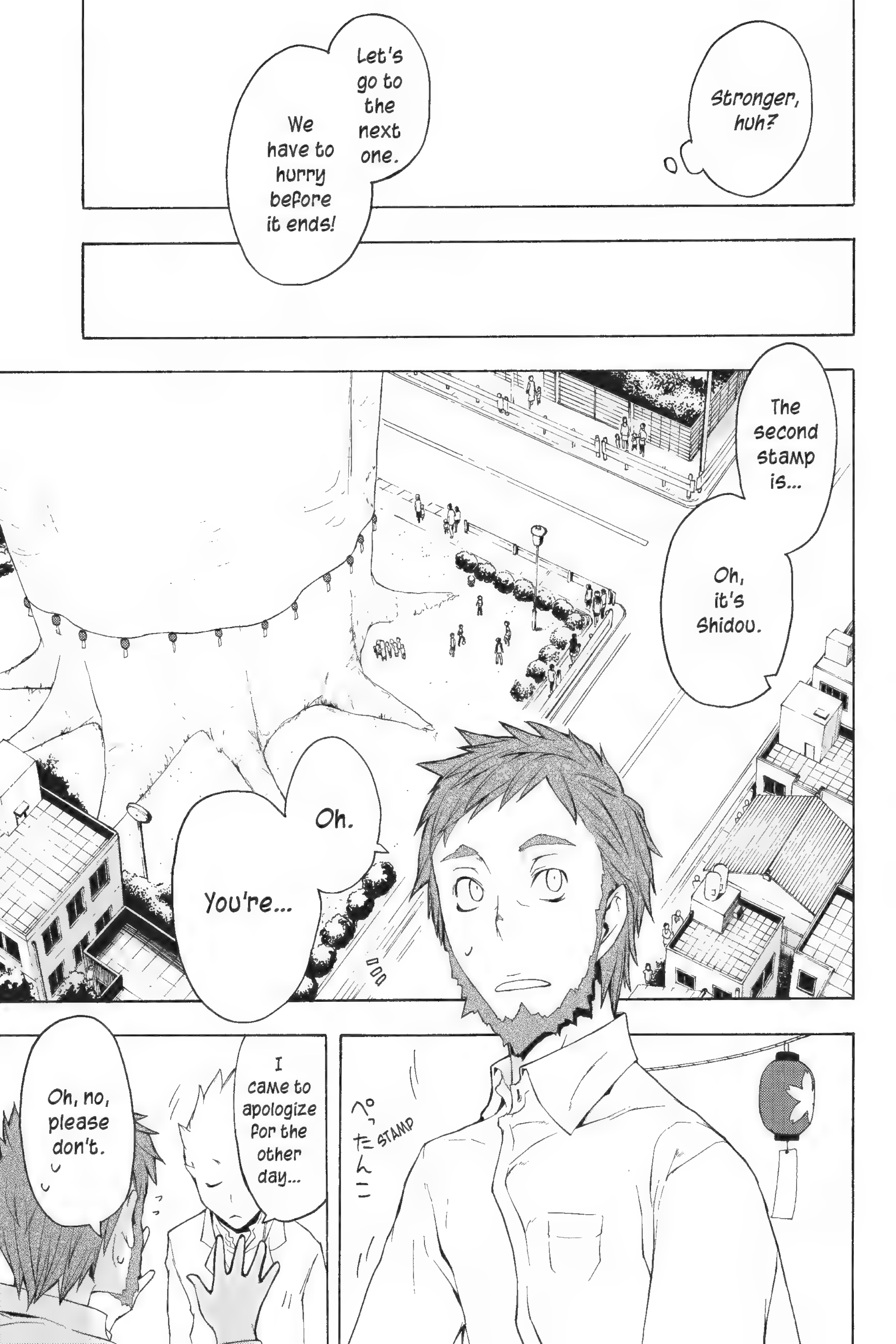

Why are you here today, Shinozuka-san?
I thought I would come say sorry to everyone for the trouble I caused. But Yae-san found me first thing this morning.
ぺったんこ
STAMP
ぺったんこ
STAMP
Oh, that's why you have a stamp card.

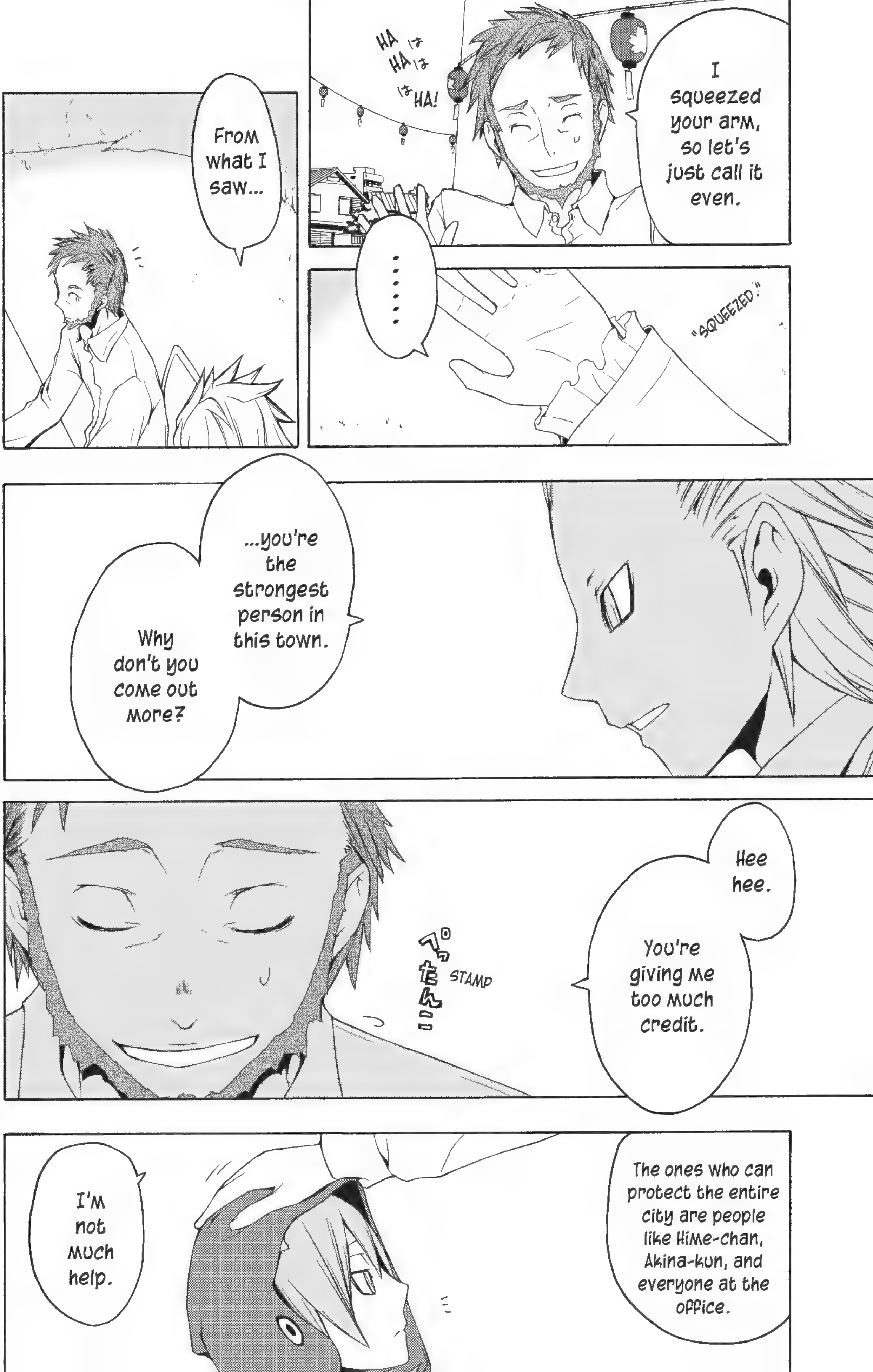

She told me everyone is out helping with the festival, so I felt I should take part, too.
That's true.
There are seven pillars, so it's a lot of work.
ぺったんこ
STAMP
Well, I'll take my time going around.

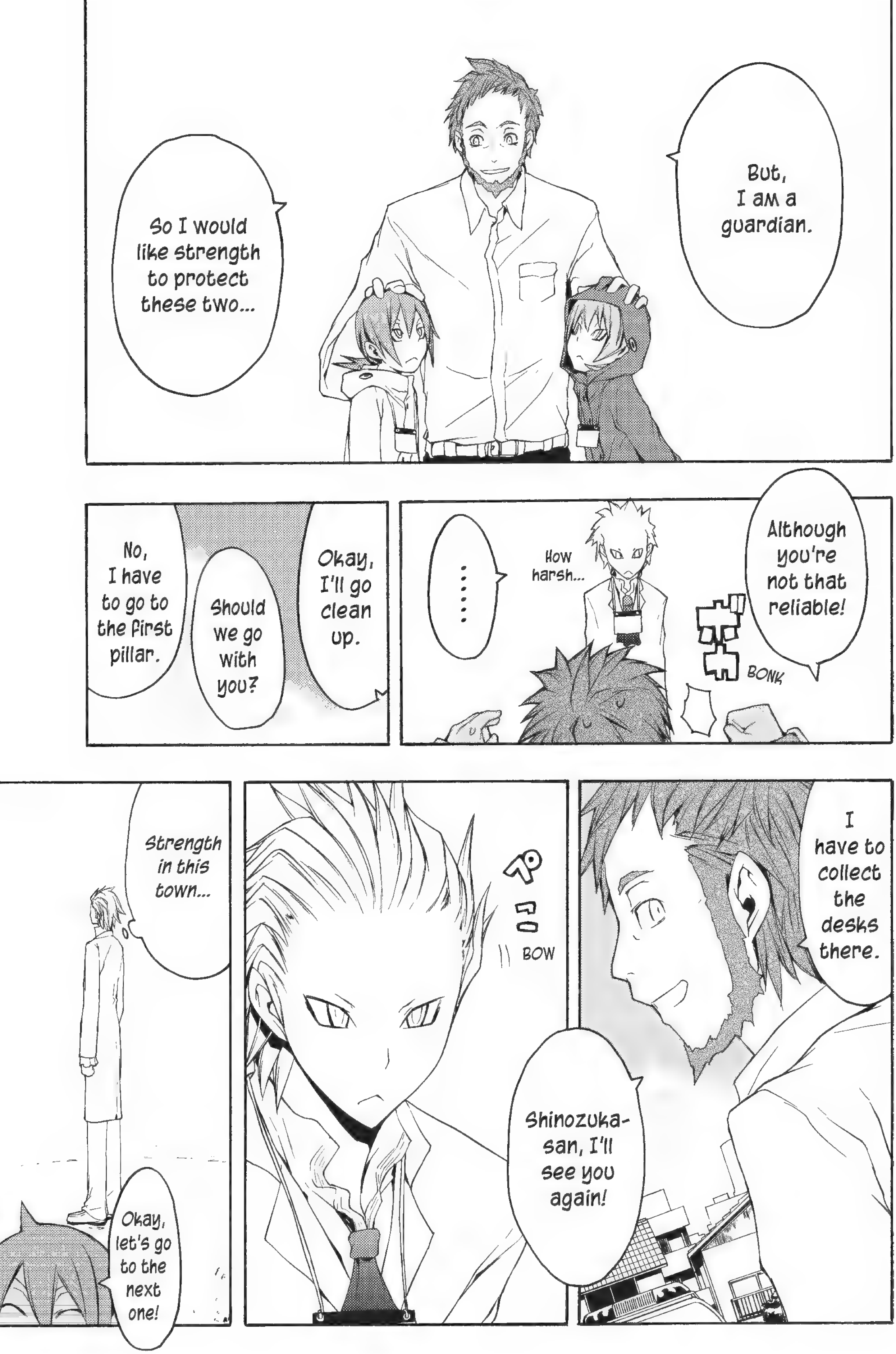

I heard you weren't feeling well.
……
Huh?
Oh, you know about that?
HOW EMBARRASSING.
I'd be down, too, if that's how my brother had wound up.
……
Well... yeah...
But...
It's not like all hope is gone.
STAMP
ぺたん!!
Yae-san told me that demon powers are attached to the spirit and not the body.
The person who took over Nii-san's body was using the power of a satori, so...
Your brother's spirit is still alive?
PHEW
Yes!
Once I heard that, I knew I had to get better.
CREAK

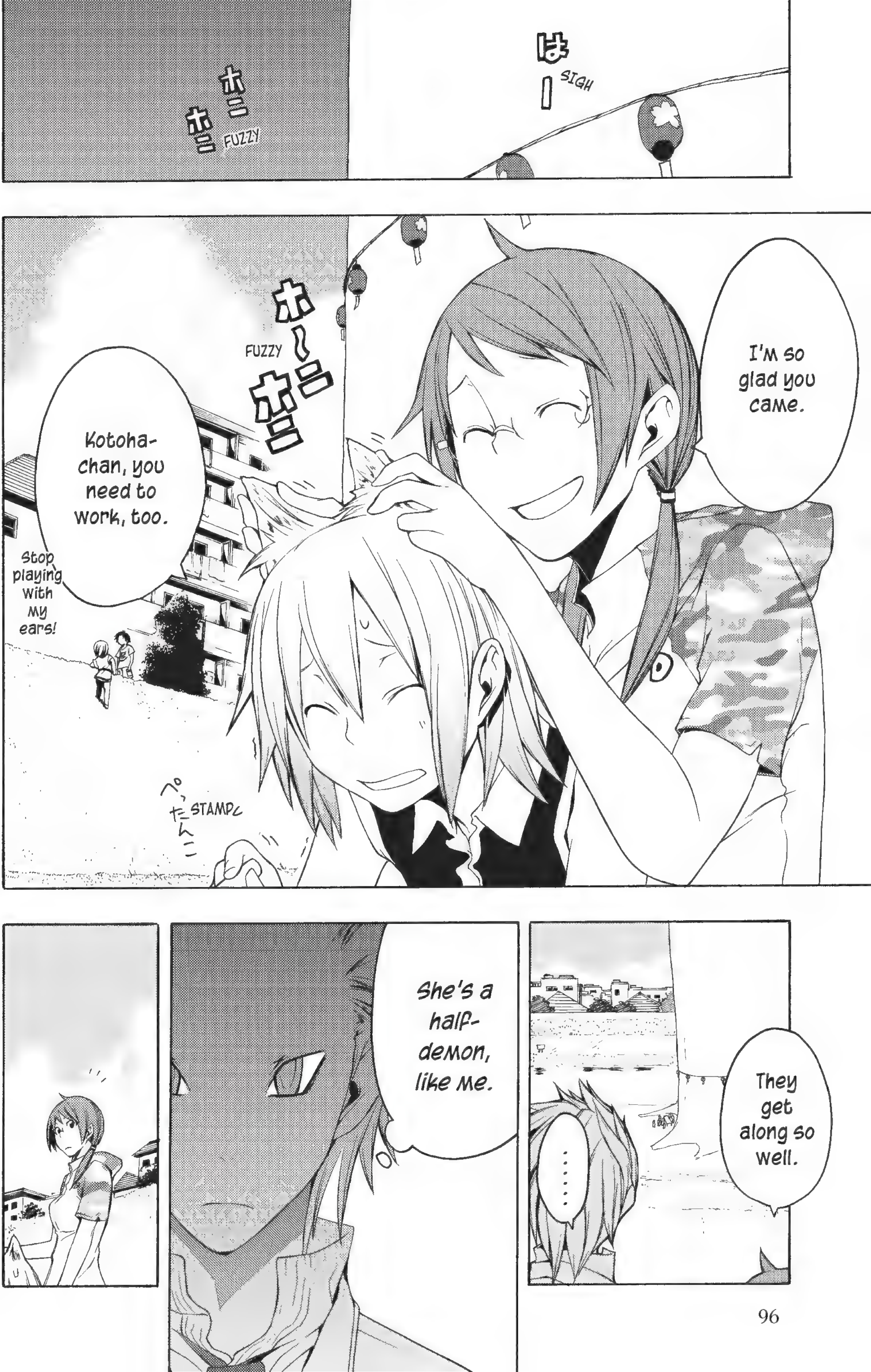

Nii-san...
...is much stronger than I am.
SST すっ
If I get stronger, Nii-san will become much stronger, too.
Then he can return to normal.
ぺったんっ STAMP
......
Okay, done.
Mina-chan, Kana-chan, you two are the last ones.
Really?
See?
プルルル RING RING

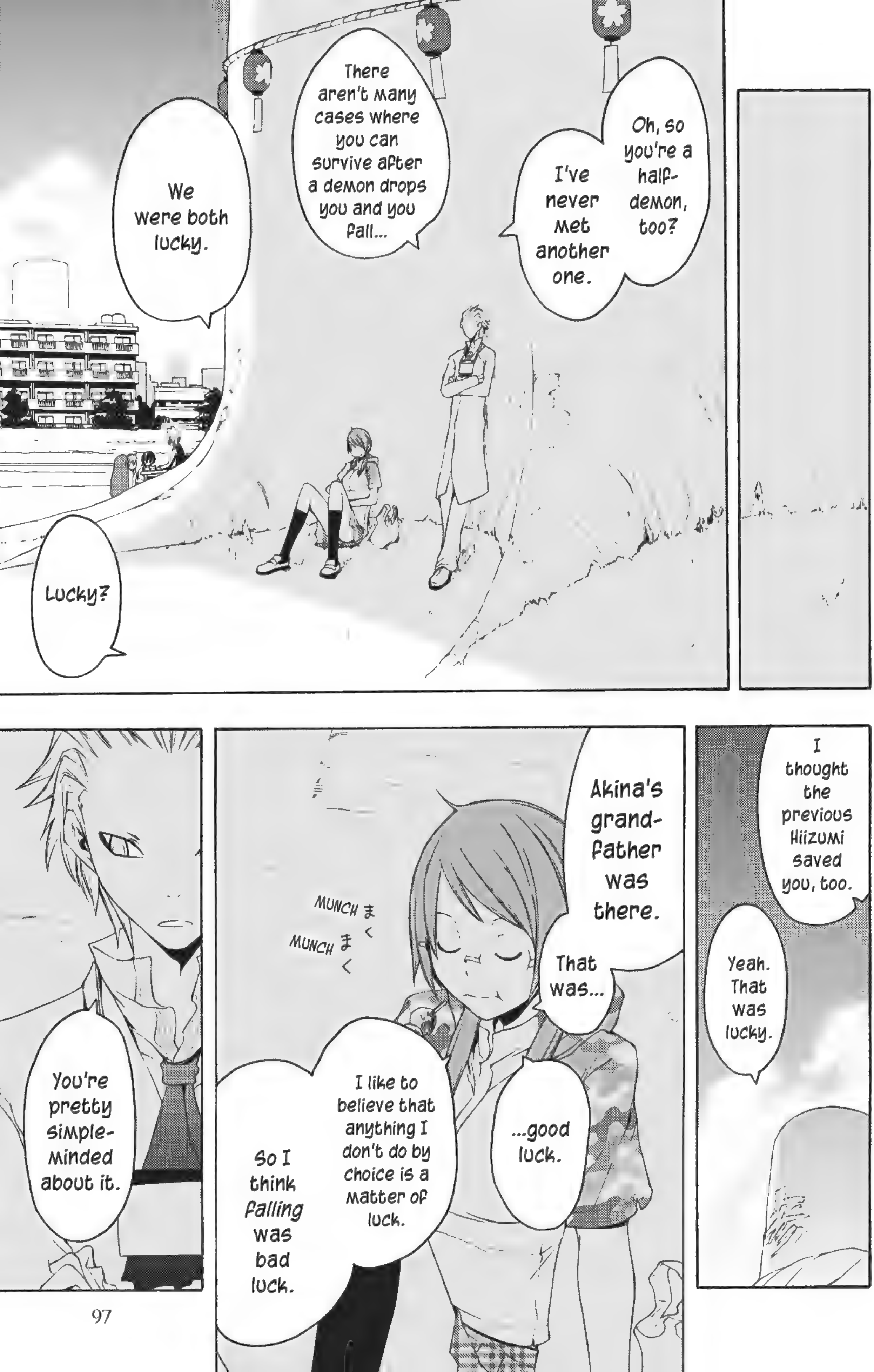

Hello?
Waaah! Ao, help me!
WHOOSH
Such a loud voice...
Huh? Oh, okay. Got it.
It looks like Kotoha-chan is really busy.
BEEP
Since I'm done here...
...I'll go help Kotoha-chan.
Shinozuka-san...
you should visit our office someday, too!
See you!

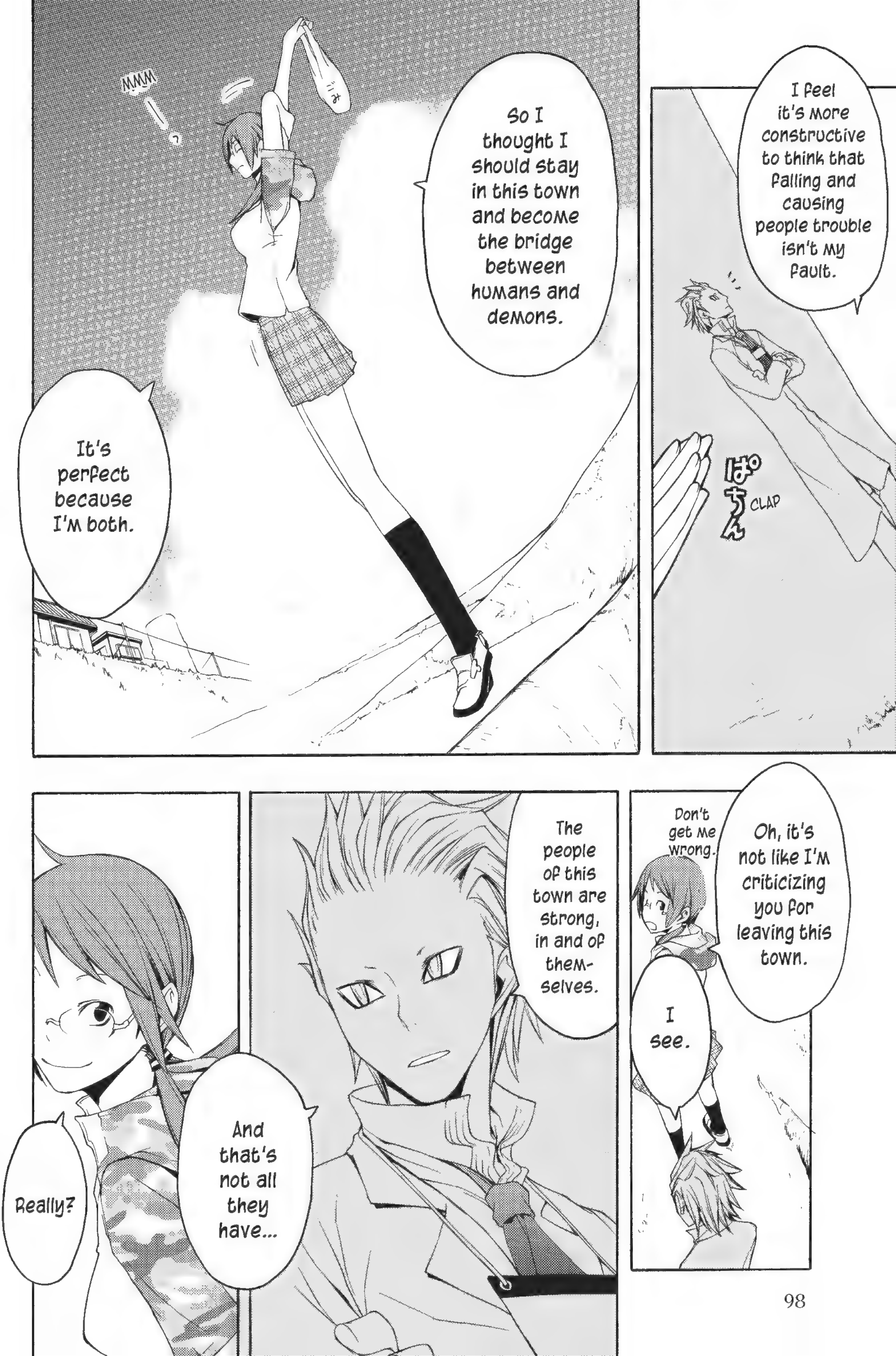

Stronger, huh?
Let's go to the next one.
We have to hurry before it ends!
The second stamp is...
Oh, it's Shidou.
Oh.
You're...
ぺ、たん
STAMP
I came to apologize for the other day...
Oh, no, please don't.

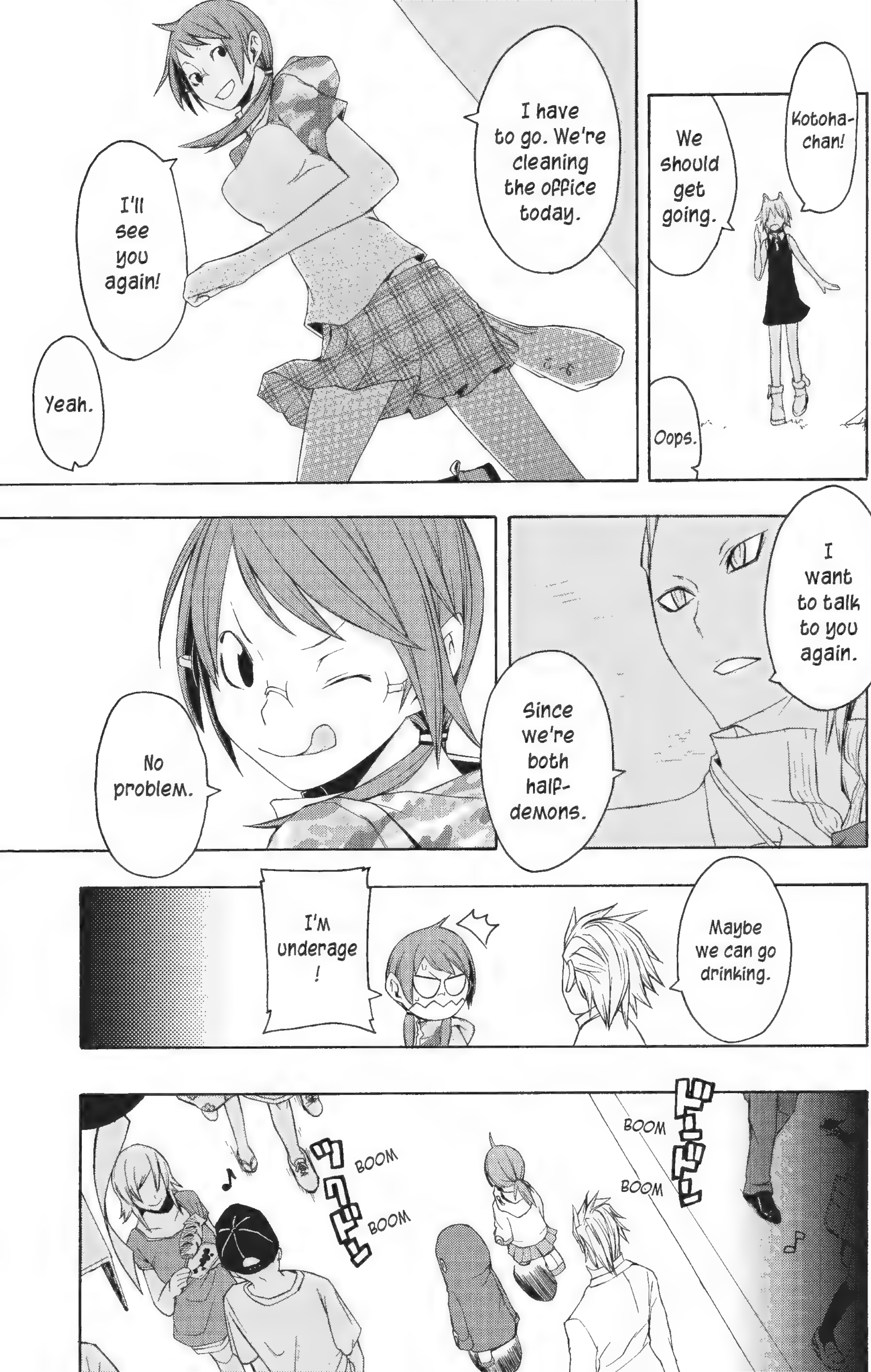
I squeezed your arm, so let's just call it even.
HA はHA は は HA!
......
"SQUEEZED"
From what I saw...
...you're the strongest person in this town.
Why don't you come out more?
Hee hee.
You're giving me too much credit.
ぺったん!! STAMP
The ones who can protect the entire city are people like Hime-chan, Akina-kun, and everyone at the office.
I'm not much help.

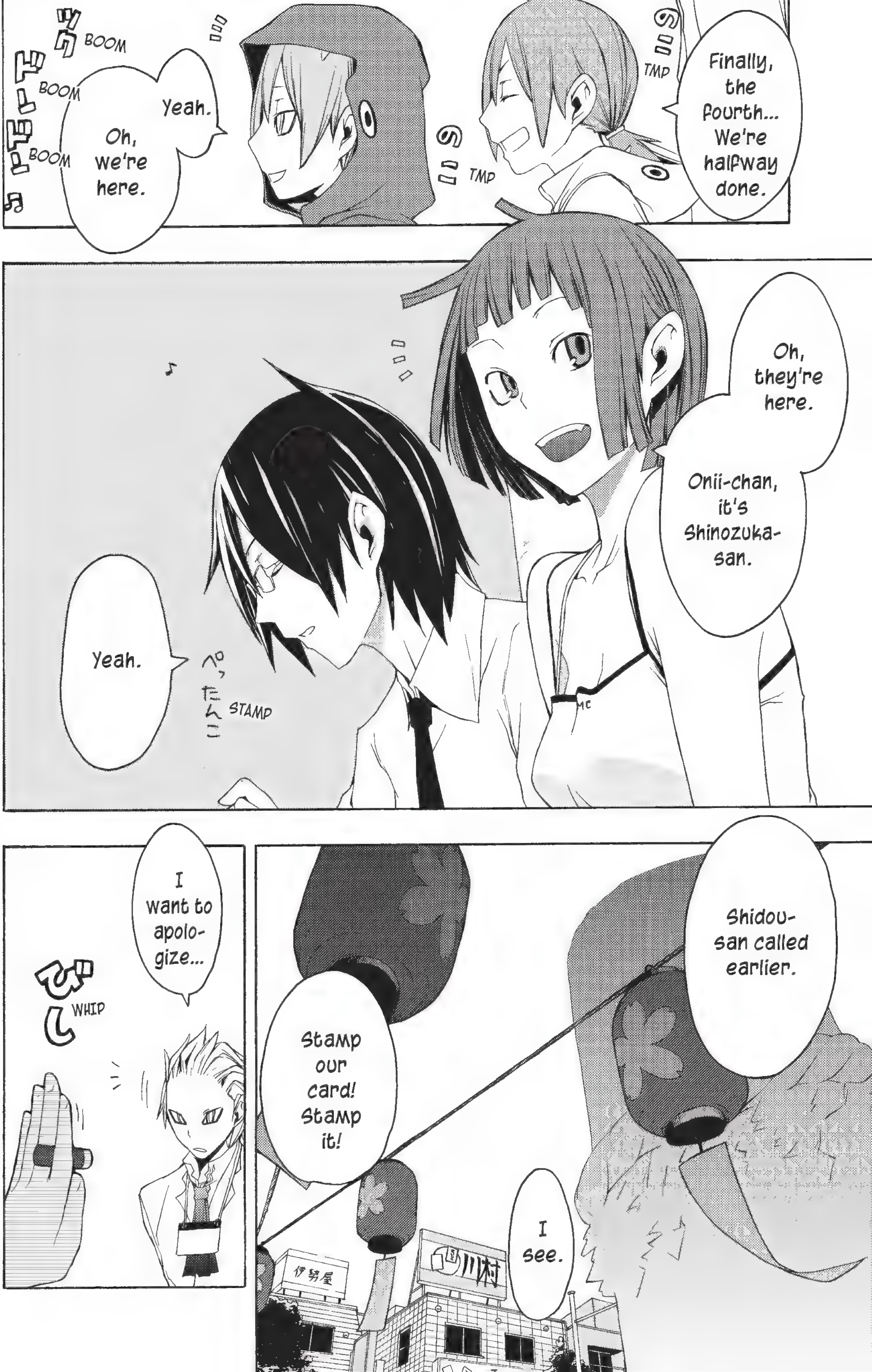

But, I am a guardian.
So I would like strength to protect these two...
Although you're not that reliable!
ボカ
BONK
How harsh...
......
Okay, I'll go clean up.
Should we go with you?
No, I have to go to the first pillar.
I have to collect the desks there.
Shinozuka-san, I'll see you again!
ペコ
BOW
Strength in this town...
Okay, let's go to the next one!

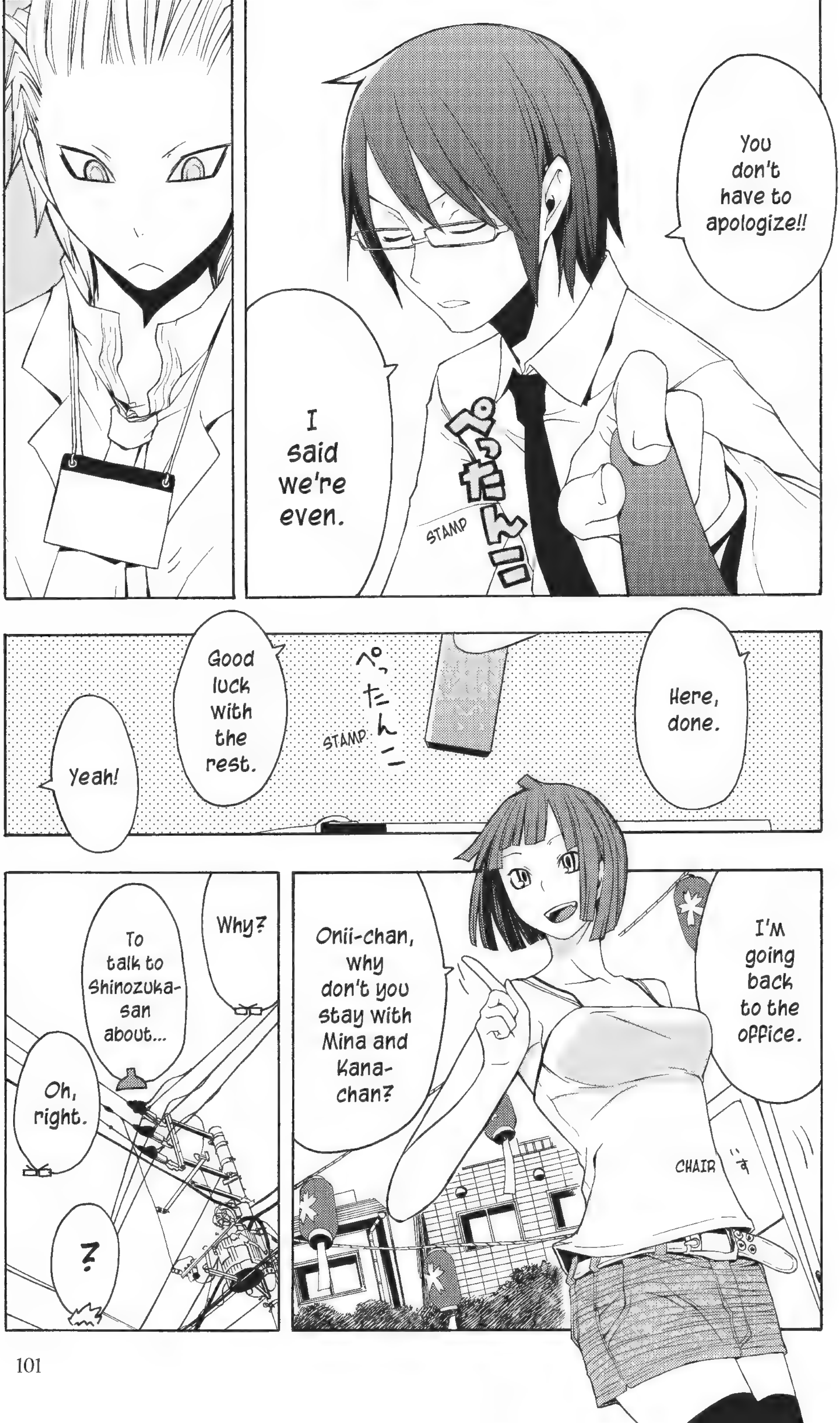

はー
SIGH
ホニホニ
FUZZY
I'm so glad you came.
ホ〜ニホニ
FUZZY
Kotoha-chan, you need to work, too.
Stop playing with my ears!
ぺったんこ
STAMP
They get along so well.
……
She's a half-demon, like me.

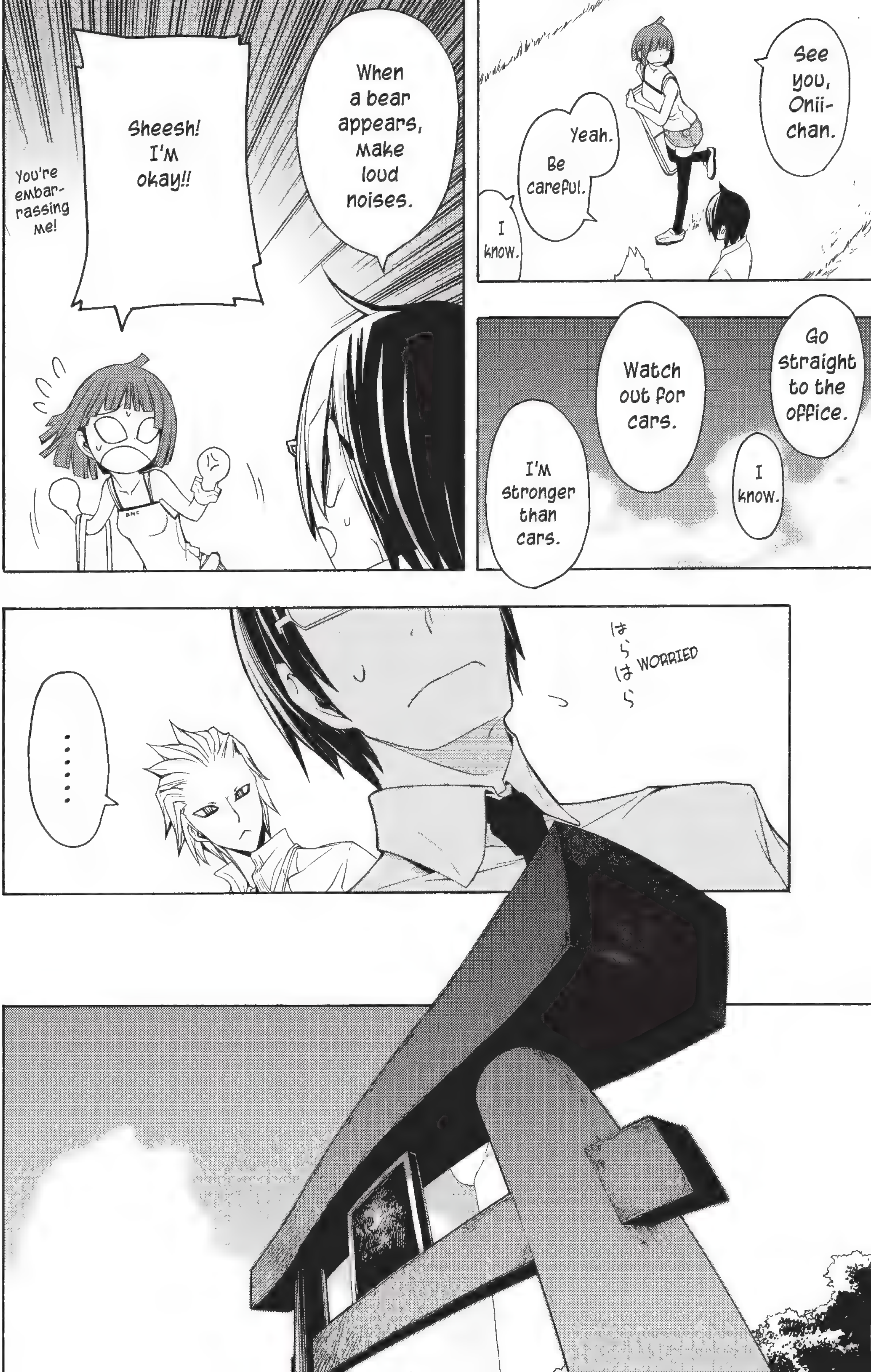

Oh, so you're a half-demon, too?
I've never met another one.
There aren't many cases where you can survive after a demon drops you and you fall...
We were both lucky.
Lucky?
I thought the previous Hiizumi saved you, too.
Yeah. That was lucky.
Akina's grandfather was there.
That was...
...good luck.
MUNCH まく
MUNCH まく
I like to believe that anything I don't do by choice is a matter of luck.
So I think *falling* was bad luck.
You're pretty simple-minded about it.

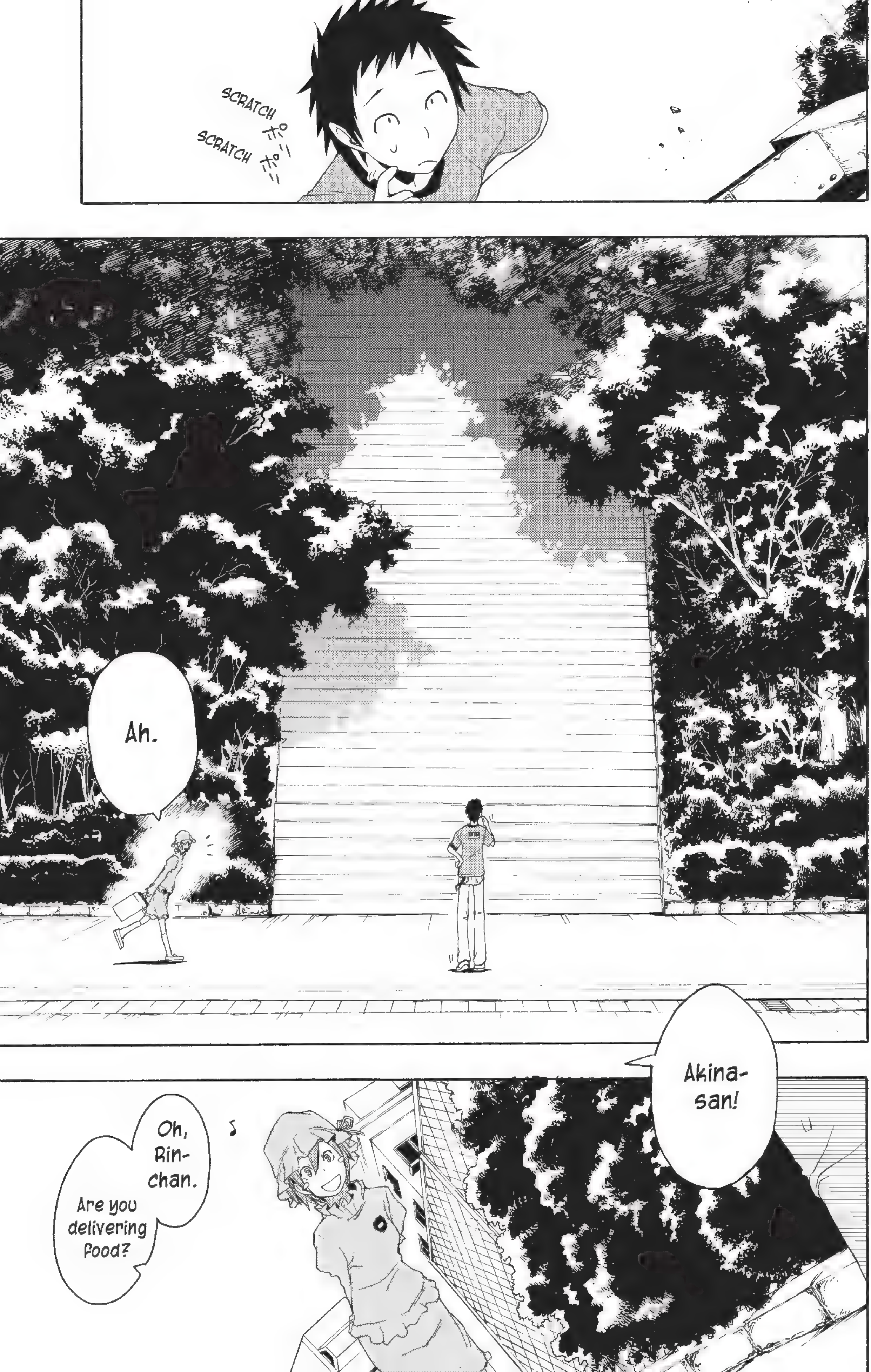

I feel it's more constructive to think that falling and causing people trouble isn't my fault.
ぱちん
CLAP
So I thought I should stay in this town and become the bridge between humans and demons.
MMM—?
ごみ
It's perfect because I'm both.
Oh, it's not like I'm criticizing you for leaving this town.
Don't get me wrong.
I see.
The people of this town are strong, in and of them-selves.
And that's not all they have...
Really?

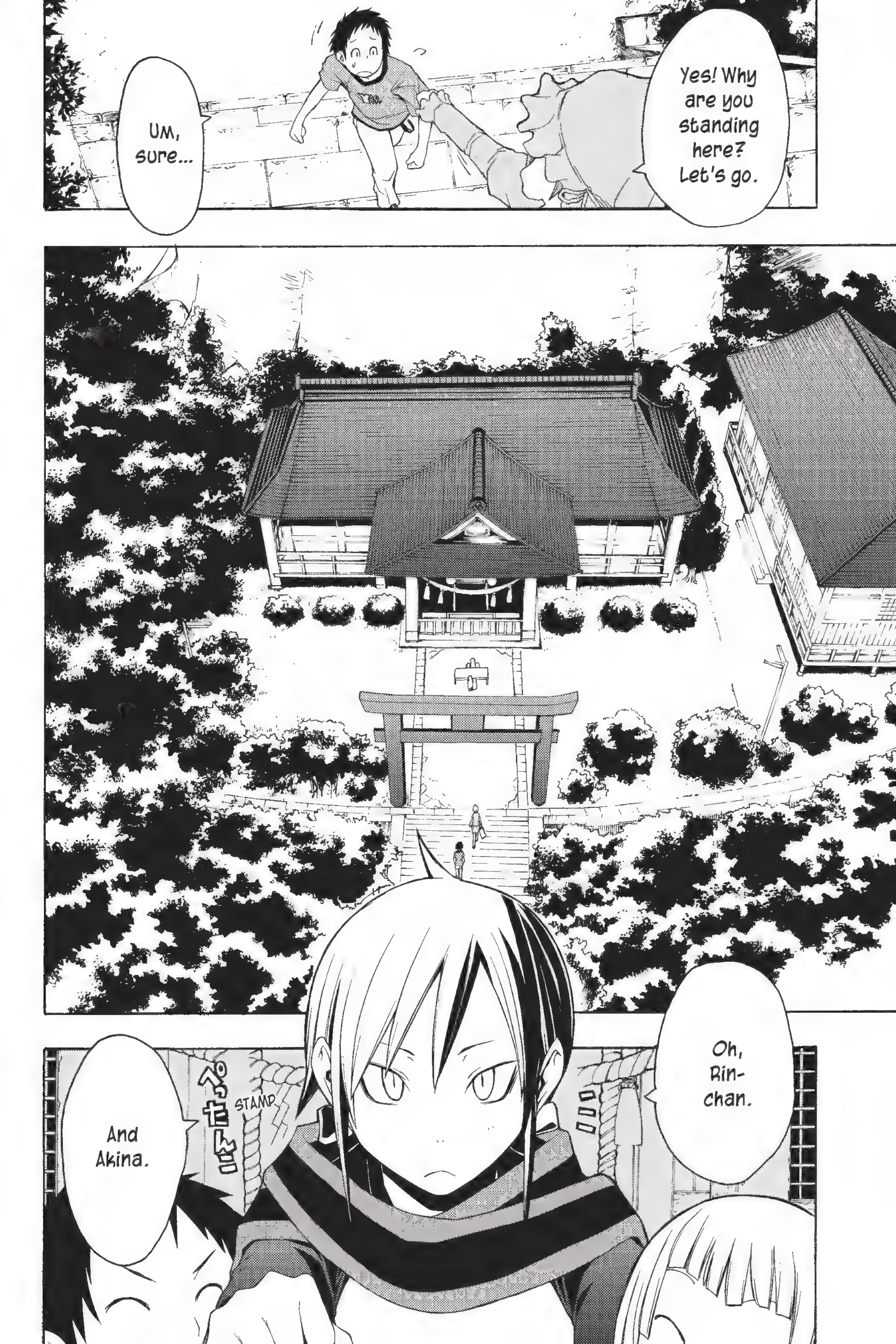

Kotoha-chan!
We should get going.
Oops.
I have to go. We're cleaning the office today.
I'll see you again!
Yeah.
I want to talk to you again.
Since we're both half-demons.
No problem.
Maybe we can go drinking.
I'M underage!
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM

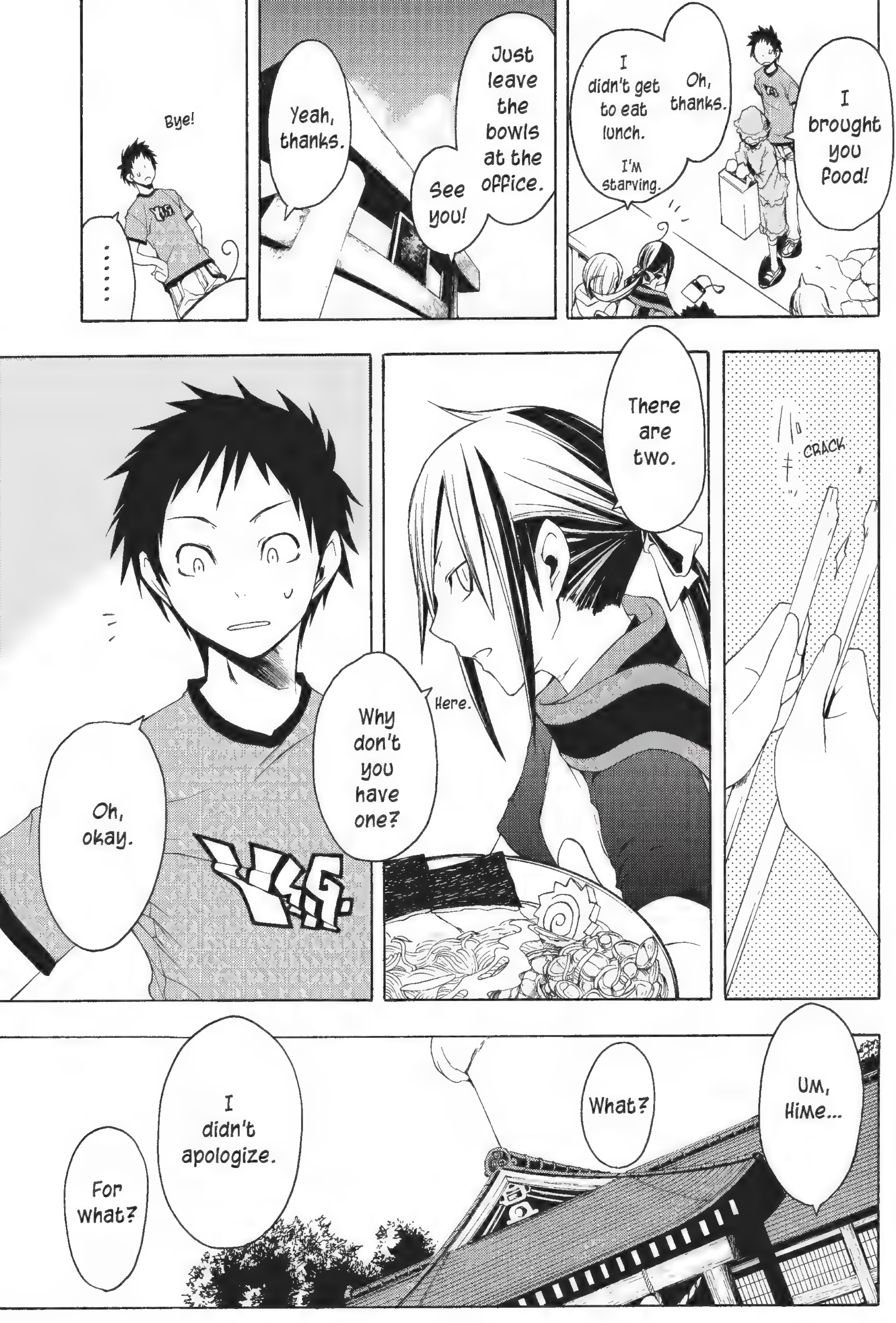

Finally, the fourth... We're halfway done.
TMP
TMP
Yeah.
Oh, we're here.
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
Oh, they're here.
Onii-chan, it's Shinozuka-san.
Yeah.
ぺったんこ
STAMP
Shidou-san called earlier.
Stamp our card! Stamp it!
I see.
川村
伊勢屋
I want to apologize...
WHIP

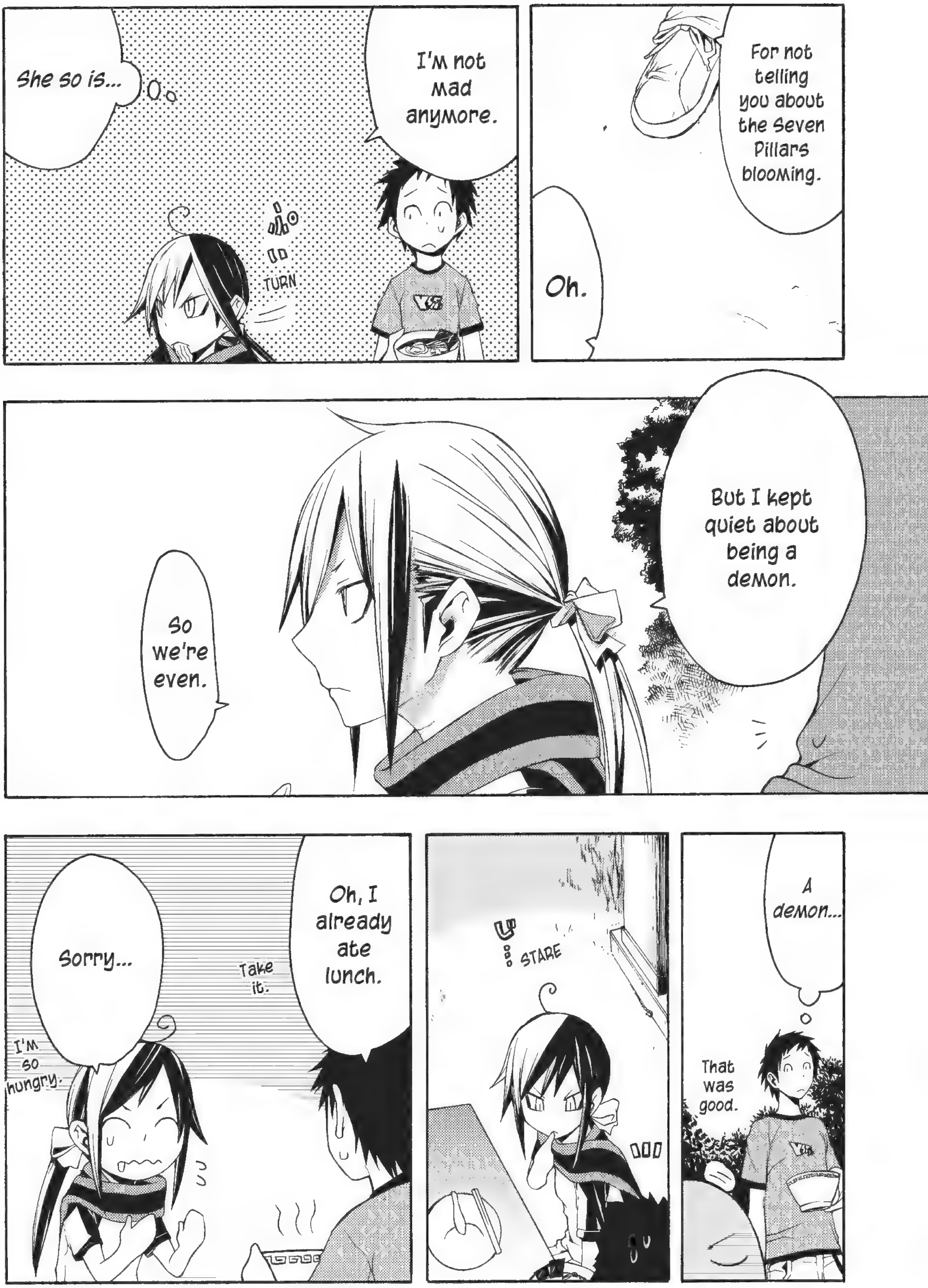

You don't have to apologize!!
I said we're even.
ぺったん!!
STAMP
Here, done.
ぺったん—
STAMP
Good luck with the rest.
Yeah!
I'm going back to the office.
CHAIR
いす
Onii-chan, why don't you stay with Mina and Kana-chan?
Why?
To talk to Shinozuka-san about...
Oh, right.
?

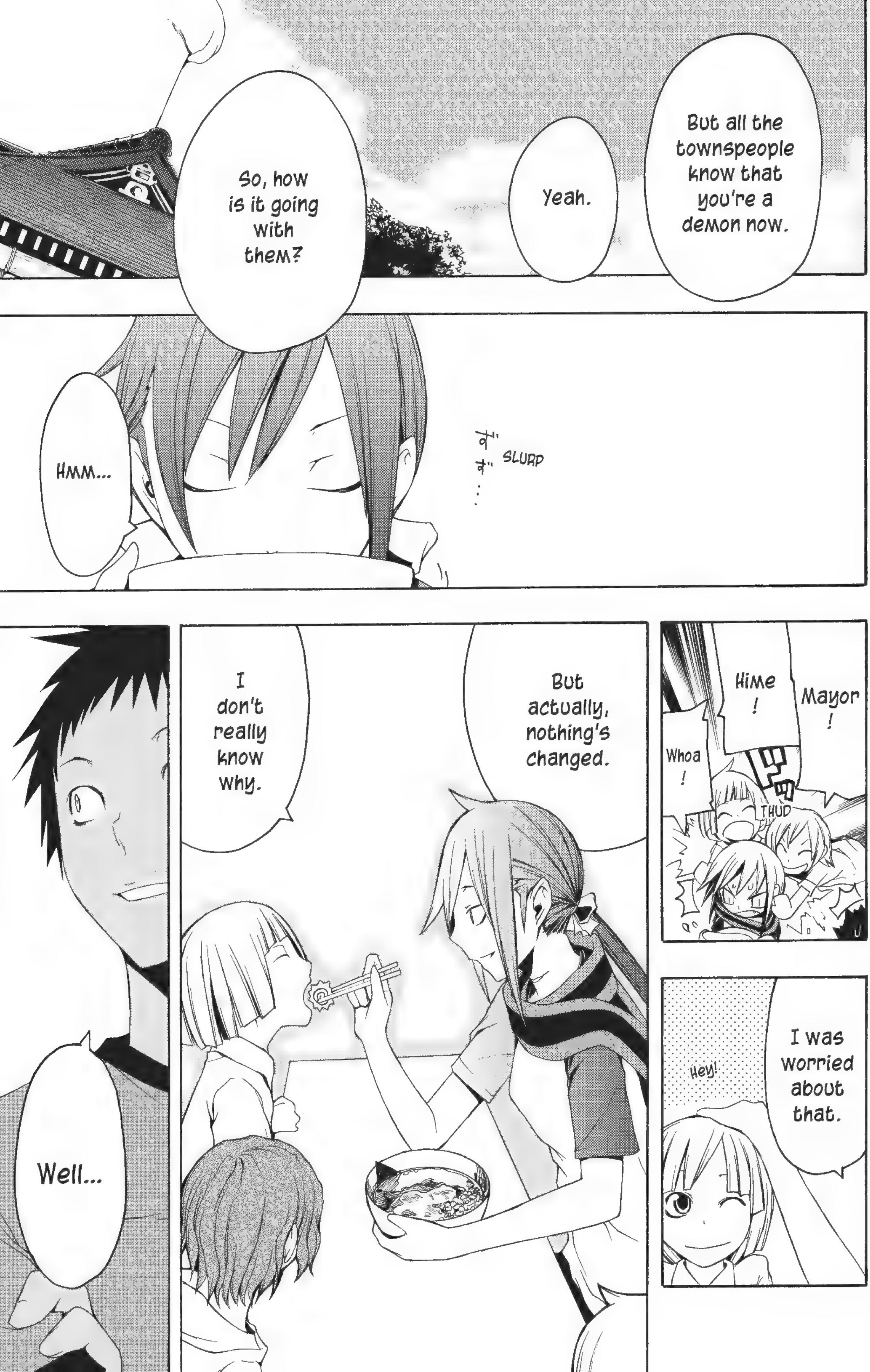

See you, Onii-chan.
Yeah. Be careful.
I know.
Go straight to the office.
I know.
Watch out for cars.
I'm stronger than cars.
When a bear appears, make loud noises.
Sheesh! I'm okay!!
You're embarrassing me!
はらはら WORRIED
……

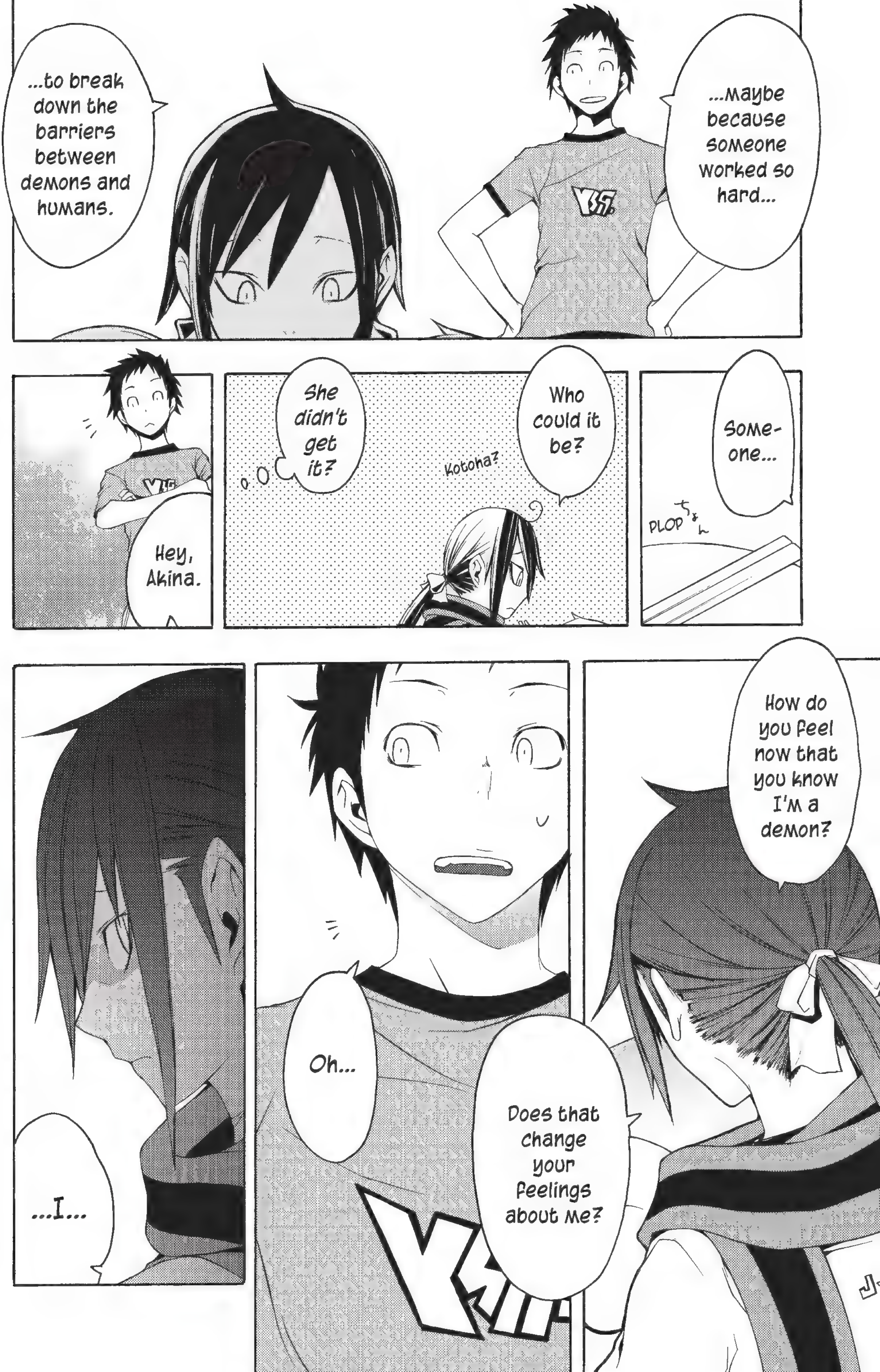

SCRATCH ポリ
SCRATCH ポリ
Ah.
Akina-san!
♪
Oh, Rin-chan.
Are you delivering food?

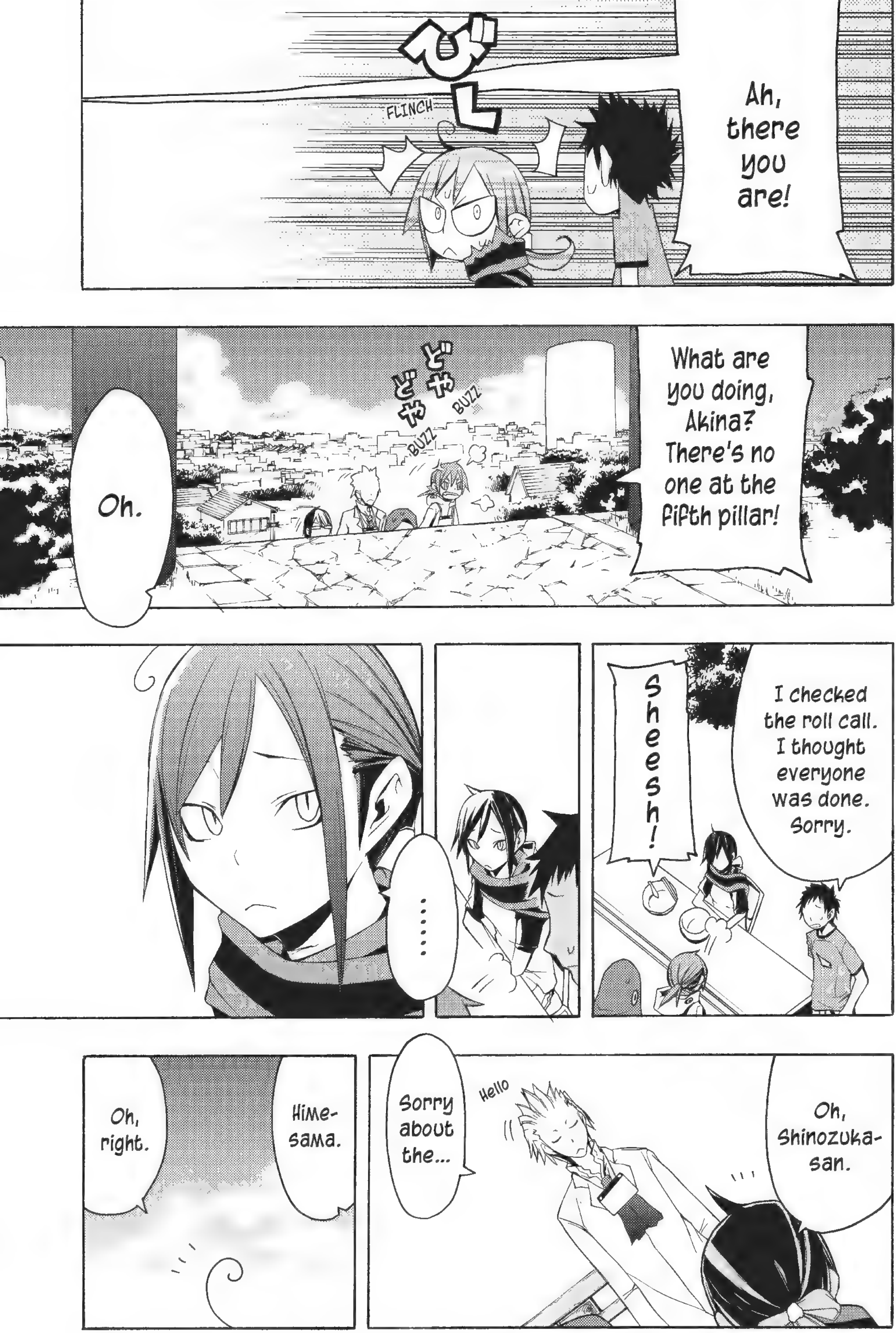

Yes! Why are you standing here? Let's go.
Um, sure...
Oh, Rin-chan.
ぺったん!
STAMP
And Akina.

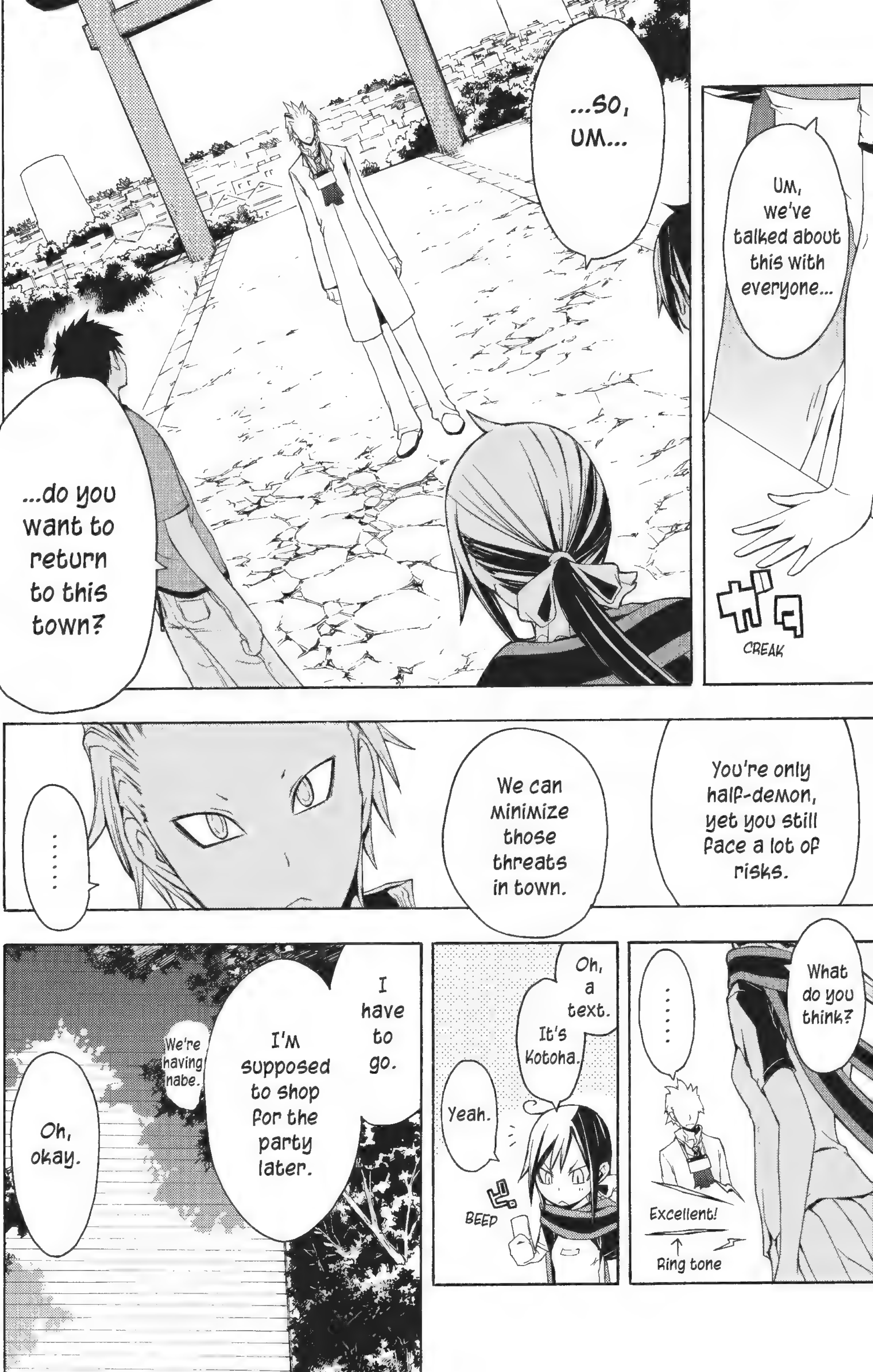

I brought you food!
Oh, thanks.
I didn't get to eat lunch.
I'm starving.
Just leave the bowls at the office.
See you!
Yeah, thanks.
Bye!
......
CRACK
There are two.
Here.
Why don't you have one?
Oh, okay.
Um, Hime...
What?
I didn't apologize.
For what?

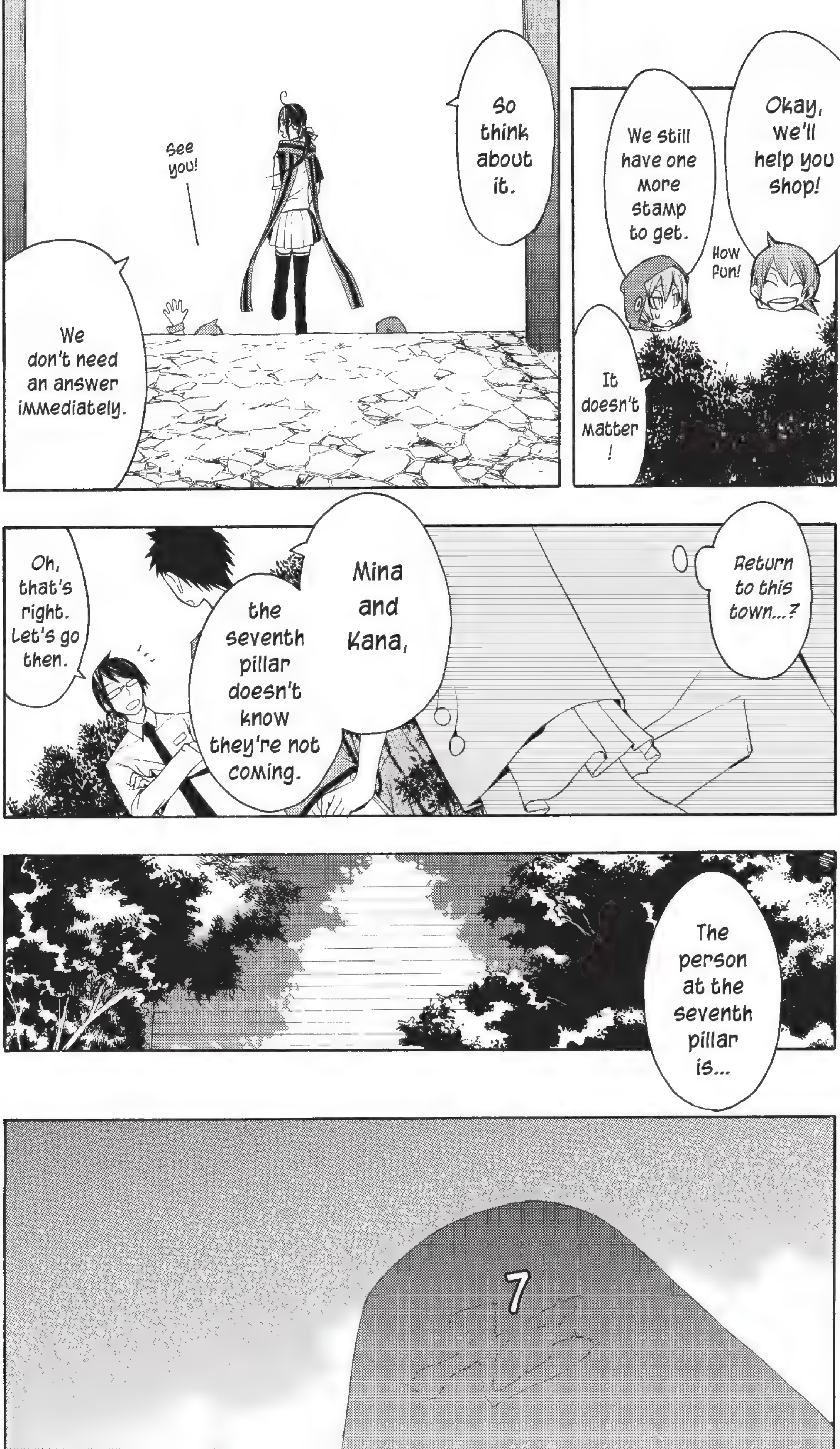

For not telling you about the Seven Pillars blooming.
Oh.
I'm not mad anymore.
TURN
She so is...
But I kept quiet about being a demon.
So we're even.
A demon...
That was good.
STARE
Oh, I already ate lunch.
Take it.
Sorry...
I'm so hungry.

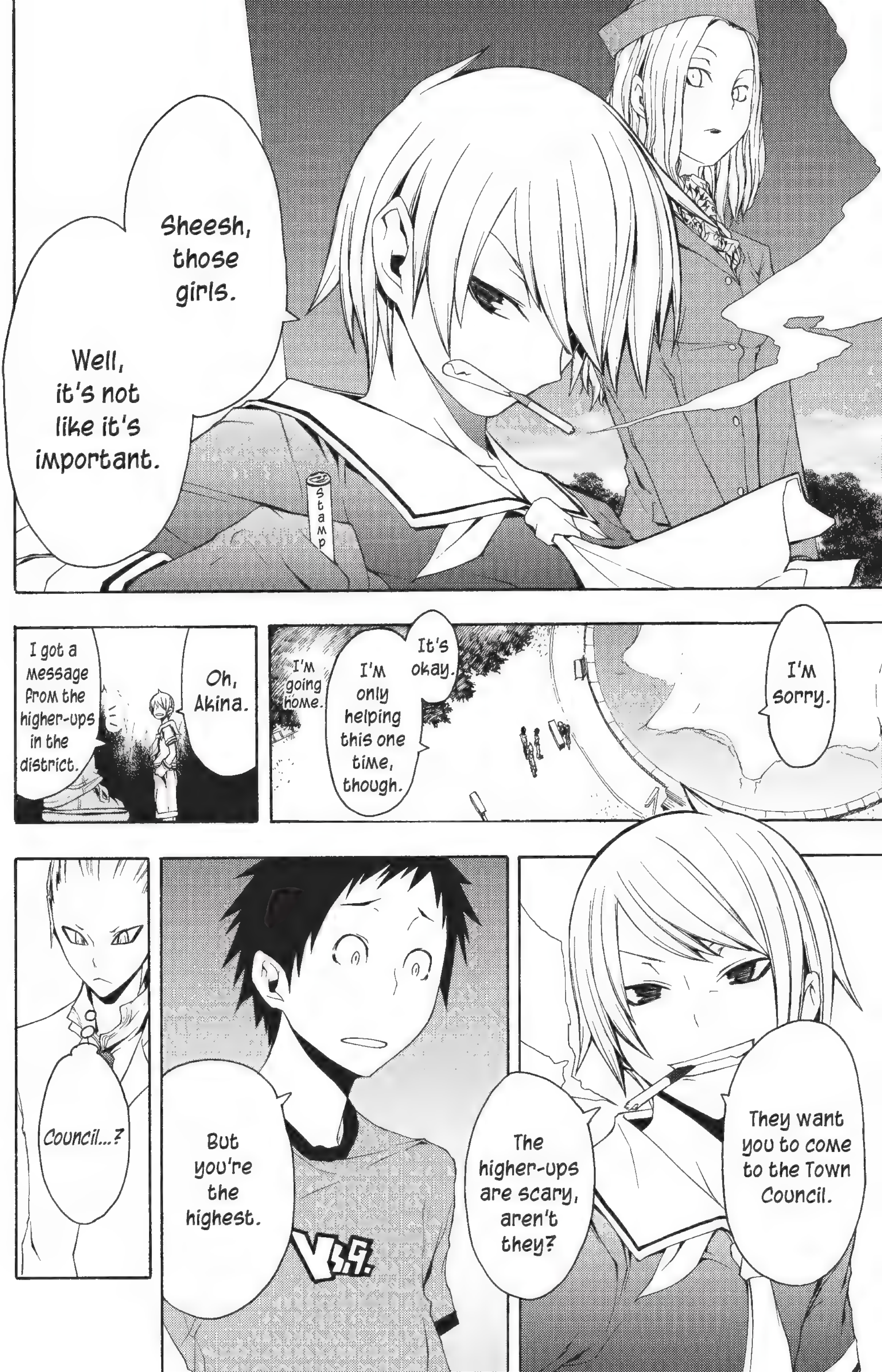

But all the townspeople know that you're a demon now.
Yeah.
So, how is it going with them?
ずず…
SLURP
Hmm...
Mayor!
Hime!
Whoa!
THUD
I was worried about that.
Hey!
But actually, nothing's changed.
I don't really know why.
Well...

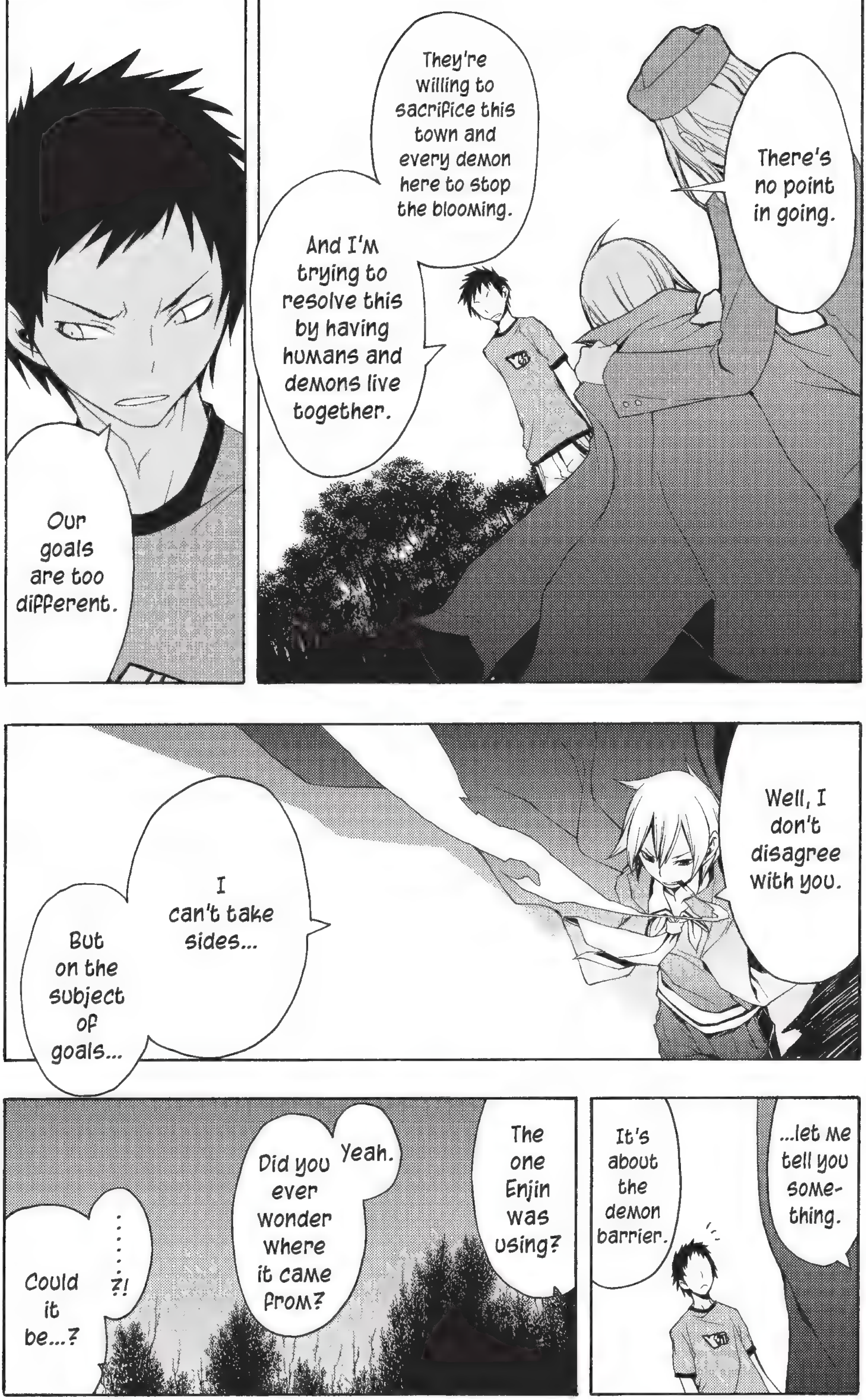

...maybe because someone worked so hard...
...to break down the barriers between demons and humans.
Some-one...
PLOP
Who could it be?
Kotoha?
She didn't get it?
Hey, Akina.
How do you feel now that you know I'm a demon?
Does that change your feelings about me?
Oh...
...I...

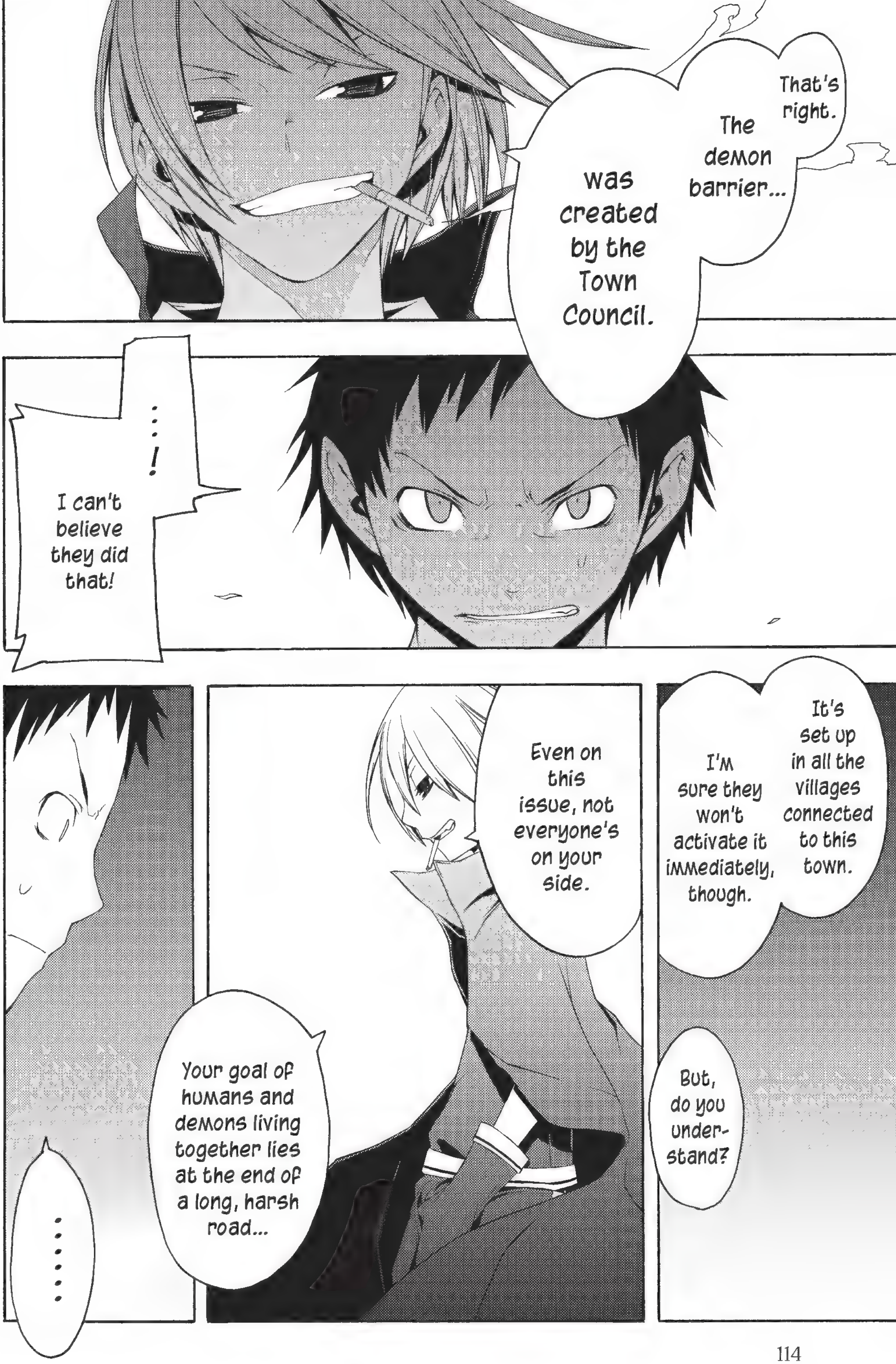

びし
FLINCH
Ah, there you are!
What are you doing, Akina? There's no one at the fifth pillar!
どやどや
BUZZ BUZZ
Oh.
I checked the roll call. I thought everyone was done. Sorry.
Sheesh!
......
Oh, Shinozuka-san.
Hello
Sorry about the...
Hime-sama.
Oh, right.

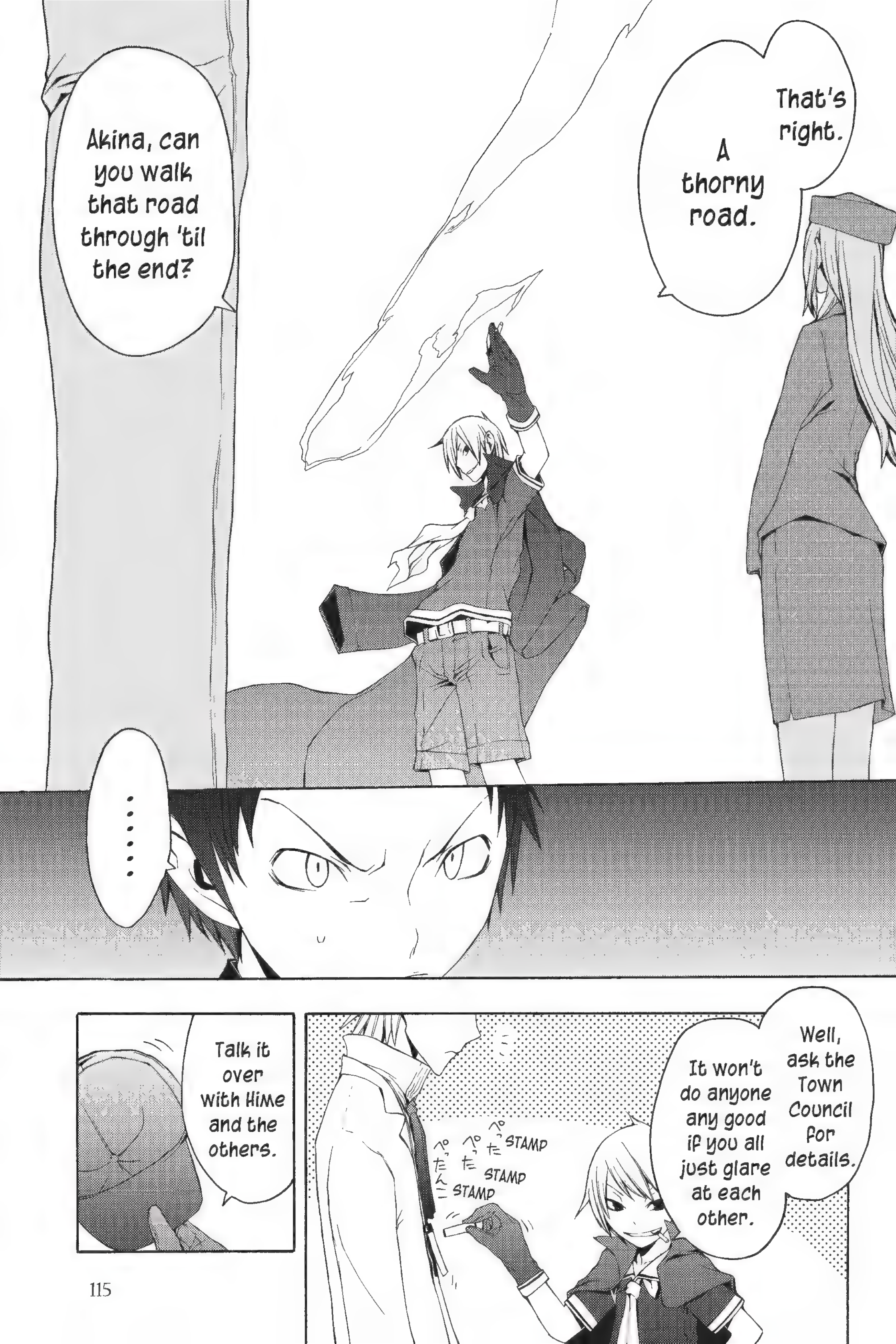

Um, we've talked about this with everyone...
CREAK
...So, um...
...do you want to return to this town?
You're only half-demon, yet you still face a lot of risks.
We can minimize those threats in town.
......
What do you think?
......
Excellent!
Ring tone
Oh, a text. It's Kotoha.
Yeah.
BEEP
I have to go.
I'm supposed to shop for the party later.
We're having nabe.
Oh, okay.

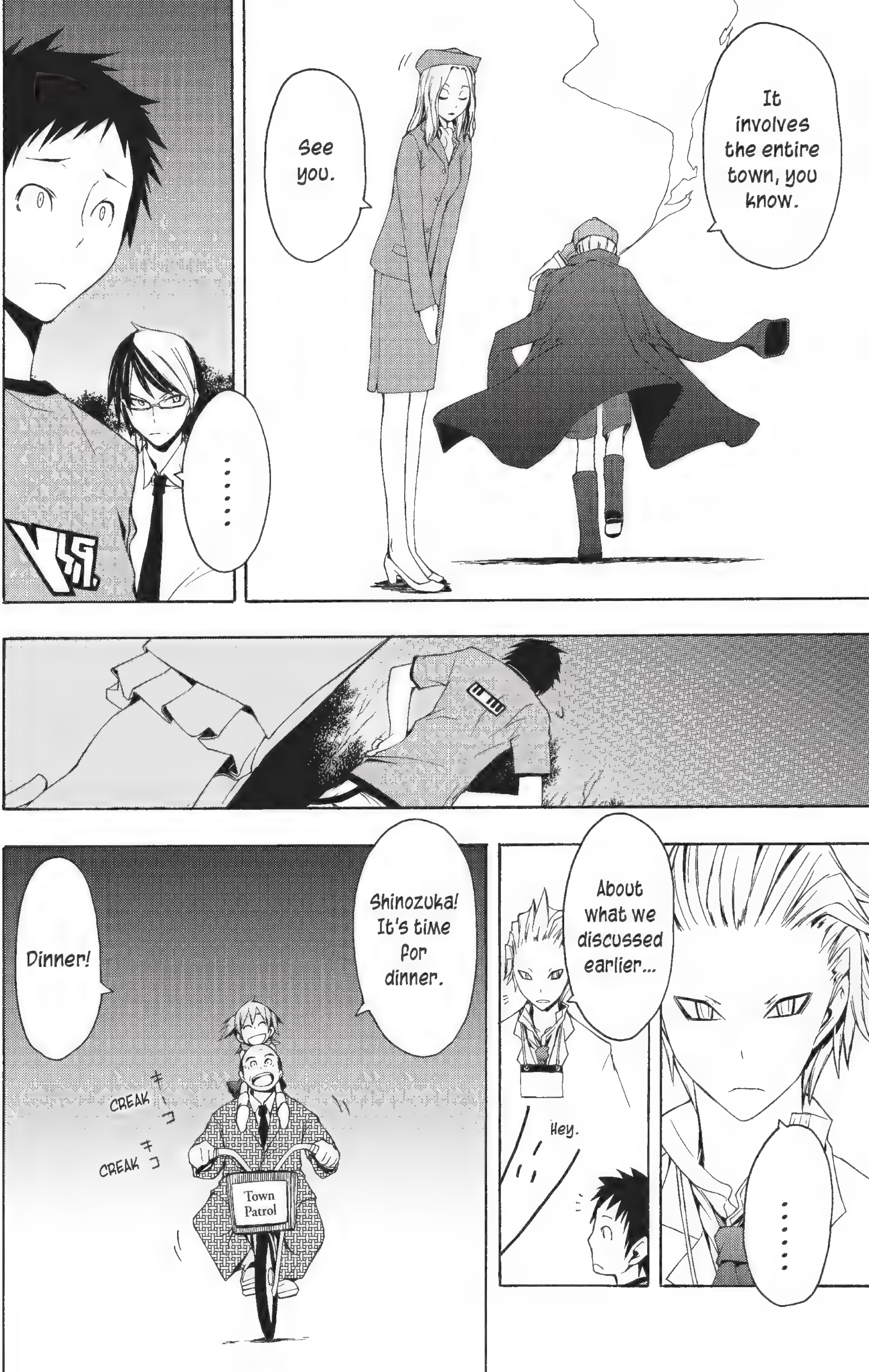

Okay, we'll help you shop!
How fun!
We still have one more stamp to get.
It doesn't matter!
So think about it.
See you!
We don't need an answer immediately.
Return to this town...?
Mina and Kana,
the seventh pillar doesn't know they're not coming.
Oh, that's right. Let's go then.
The person at the seventh pillar is...
7

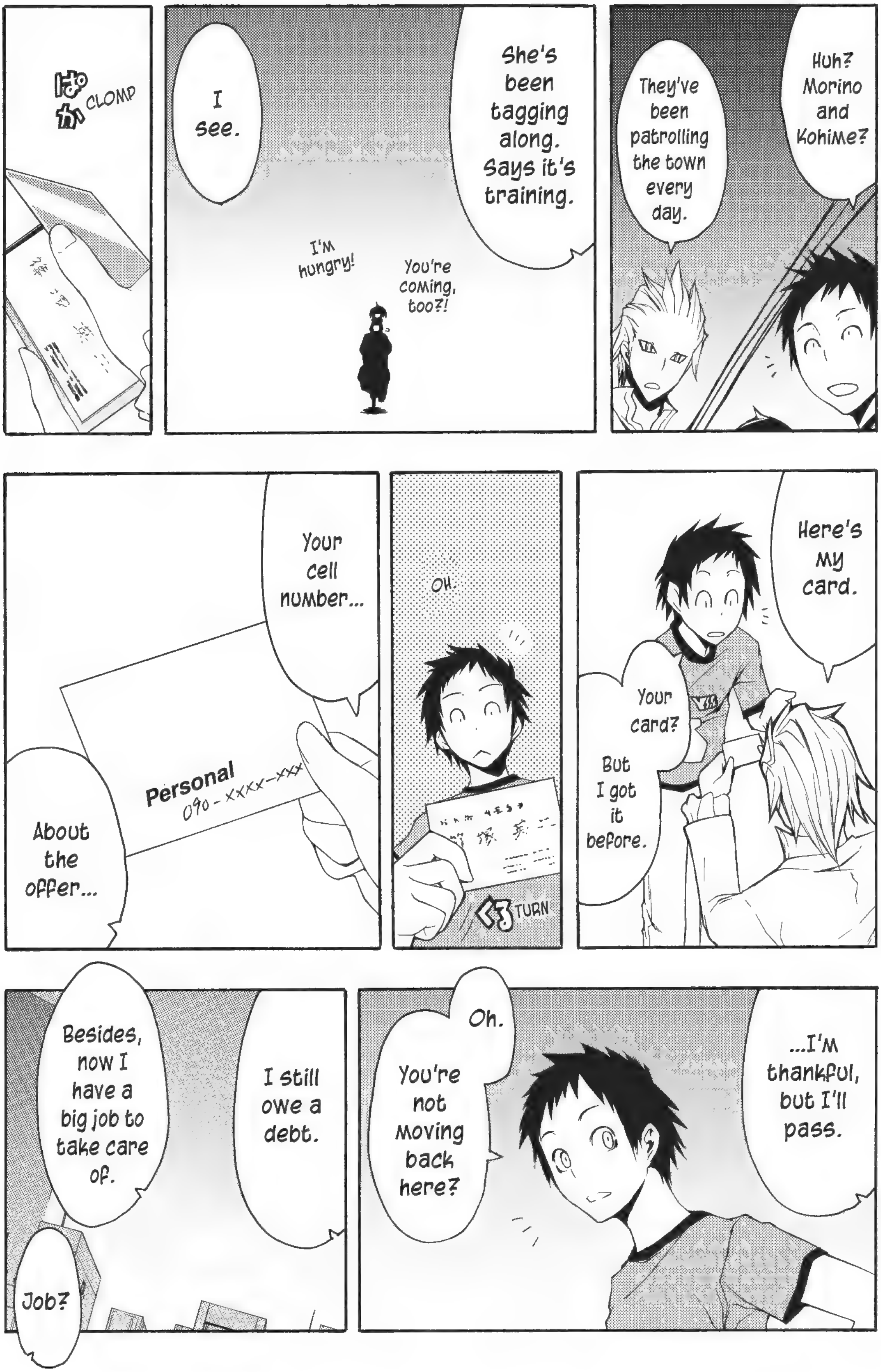

Sheesh, those girls.
Well, it's not like it's important.
stamp
I'm sorry.
It's okay.
I'm only helping this one time, though.
I'm going home.
Oh, Akina.
I got a message from the higher-ups in the district.
They want you to come to the Town Council.
The higher-ups are scary, aren't they?
But you're the highest.
Council...?

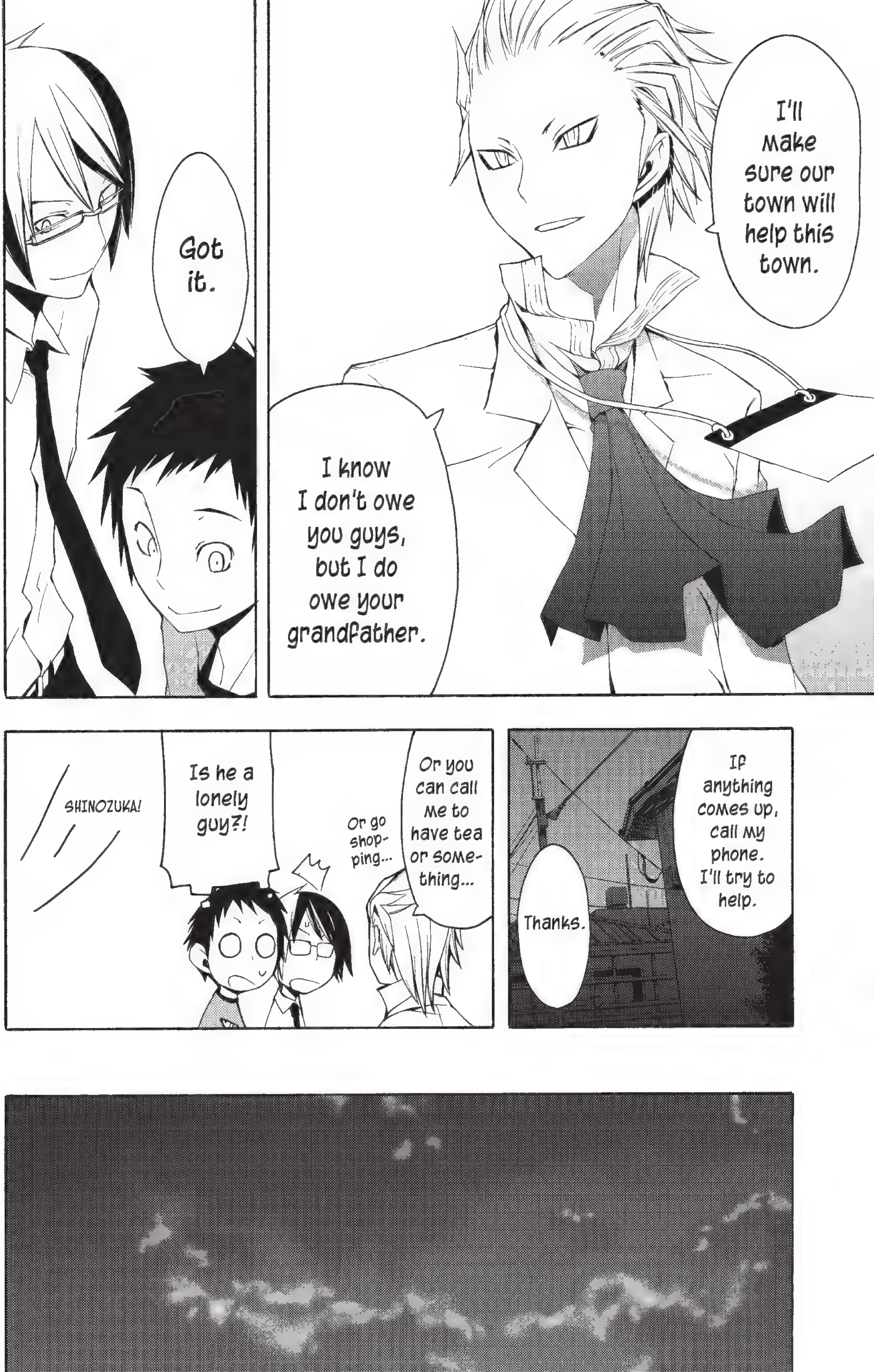

There's no point in going.
They're willing to sacrifice this town and every demon here to stop the blooming.
And I'm trying to resolve this by having humans and demons live together.
Our goals are too different.
Well, I don't disagree with you.
I can't take sides...
But on the subject of goals...
...let me tell you something.
It's about the demon barrier.
The one Enjin was using?
Yeah.
Did you ever wonder where it came from?
......?!
Could it be...?

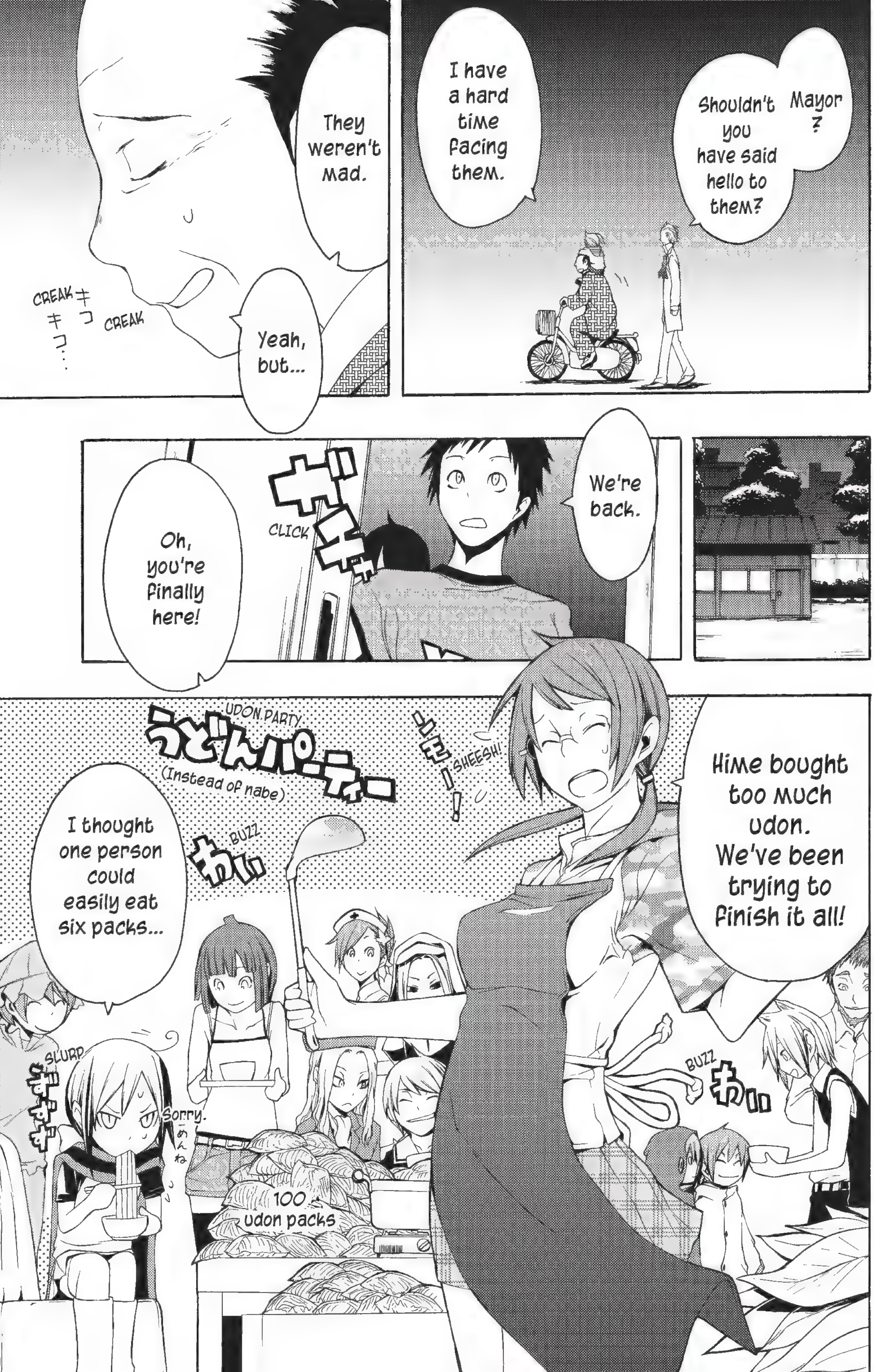

That's right.
The demon barrier...
was created by the Town Council.
...!
I can't believe they did that!
It's set up in all the villages connected to this town.
I'm sure they won't activate it immediately, though.
But, do you understand?
Even on this issue, not everyone's on your side.
Your goal of humans and demons living together lies at the end of a long, harsh road...
......

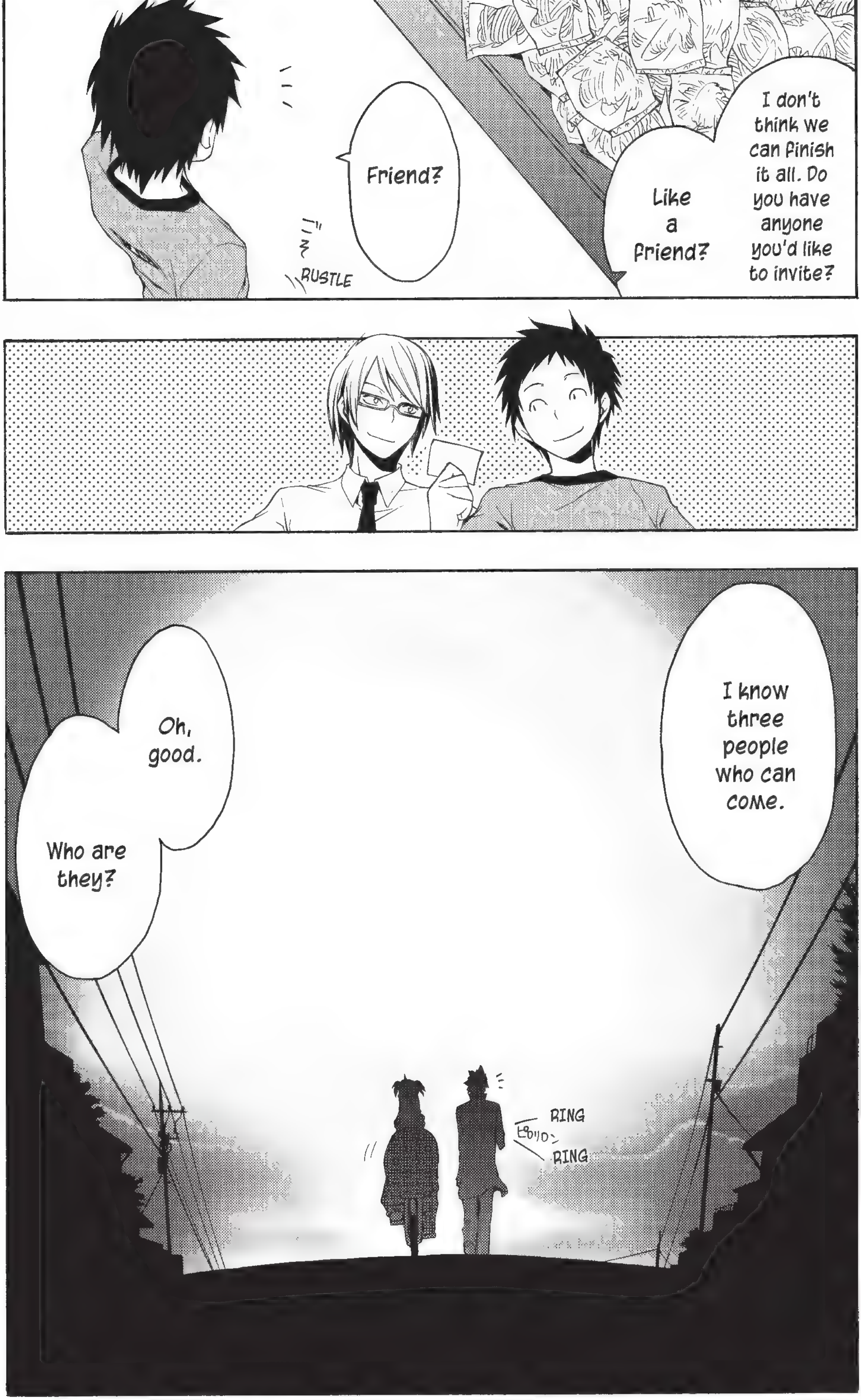

That's right.
A thorny road.
Akina, can you walk that road through 'til the end?
......
Well, ask the Town Council for details.
It won't do anyone any good if you all just glare at each other.
ぺた STAMP
ぺた STAMP
ぺたんこ STAMP
Talk it over with Hime and the others.


It involves the entire town, you know.
See you.
……
About what we discussed earlier...
……
Hey.
Shinozuka! It's time for dinner.
Dinner!
Town Patrol
CREAK キコ
CREAK キコ

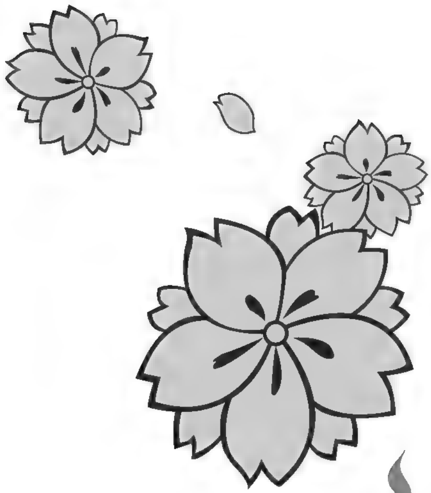

Huh? Morino and Kohime?
They've been patrolling the town every day.
She's been tagging along. Says it's training.
I see.
I'm hungry!
You're coming, too?!
ぱか CLOMP
Here's my card.
Your card?
But I got it before.
Oh.
TURN
Your cell number...
Personal
090-XXXX-XXX
About the offer...
...I'm thankful, but I'll pass.
Oh.
You're not moving back here?
I still owe a debt.
Besides, now I have a big job to take care of.
Job?


I'll make sure our town will help this town.
I know I don't owe you guys, but I do owe your grandfather.
Got it.
If anything comes up, call my phone. I'll try to help.
Thanks.
Or you can call me to have tea or something...
Or go shopping...
Is he a lonely guy?!
SHINOZUKA!


Mayor?
Shouldn't you have said hello to them?
I have a hard time facing them.
They weren't mad.
Yeah, but...
キコ CREAK
キコ… CREAK
We're back.
ガチャ CLICK
Oh, you're finally here!
Hime bought too much udon. We've been trying to finish it all!
もー！ SHEESH!
うどんパーティー UDON PARTY
(Instead of nabe)
わい BUZZ
I thought one person could easily eat six packs...
ずずず SLURP
ごめんね Sorry.
100 udon packs
わい BUZZ

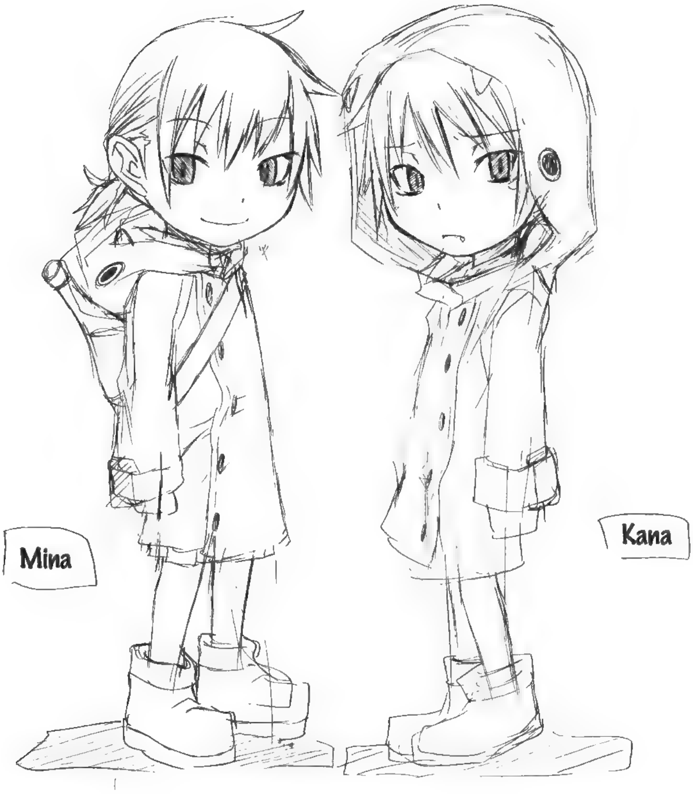

I don't think we can finish it all. Do you have anyone you'd like to invite?
Like a friend?
Friend?
RUSTLE
I know three people who can come.
Oh, good.
Who are they?
RING
RING

20th Night: Thorny Road. END



Yozakura Quartet 4

Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet



Age:	5
Hobbies:	Drinking different kinds of Japanese sake

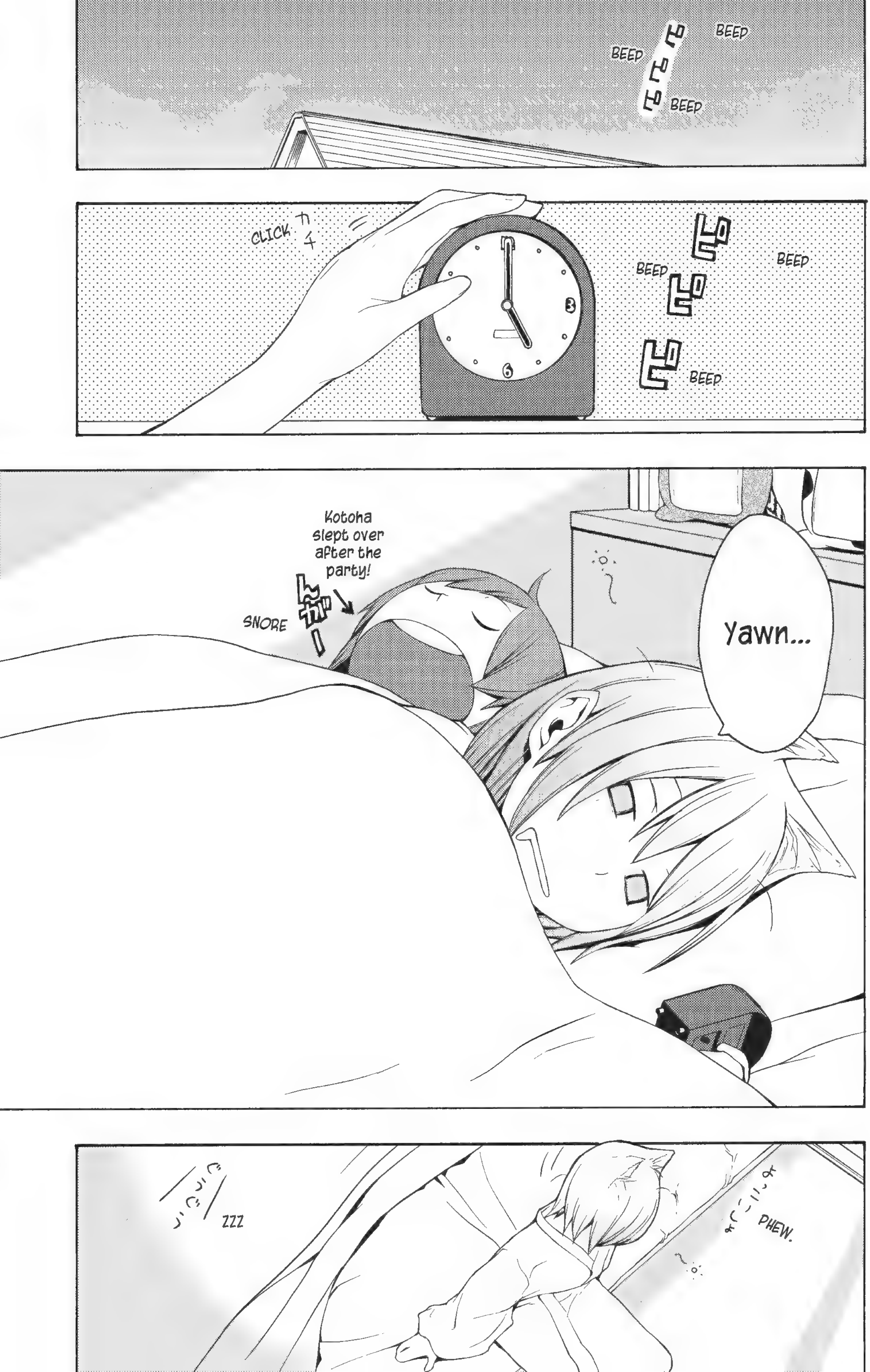
Favorites

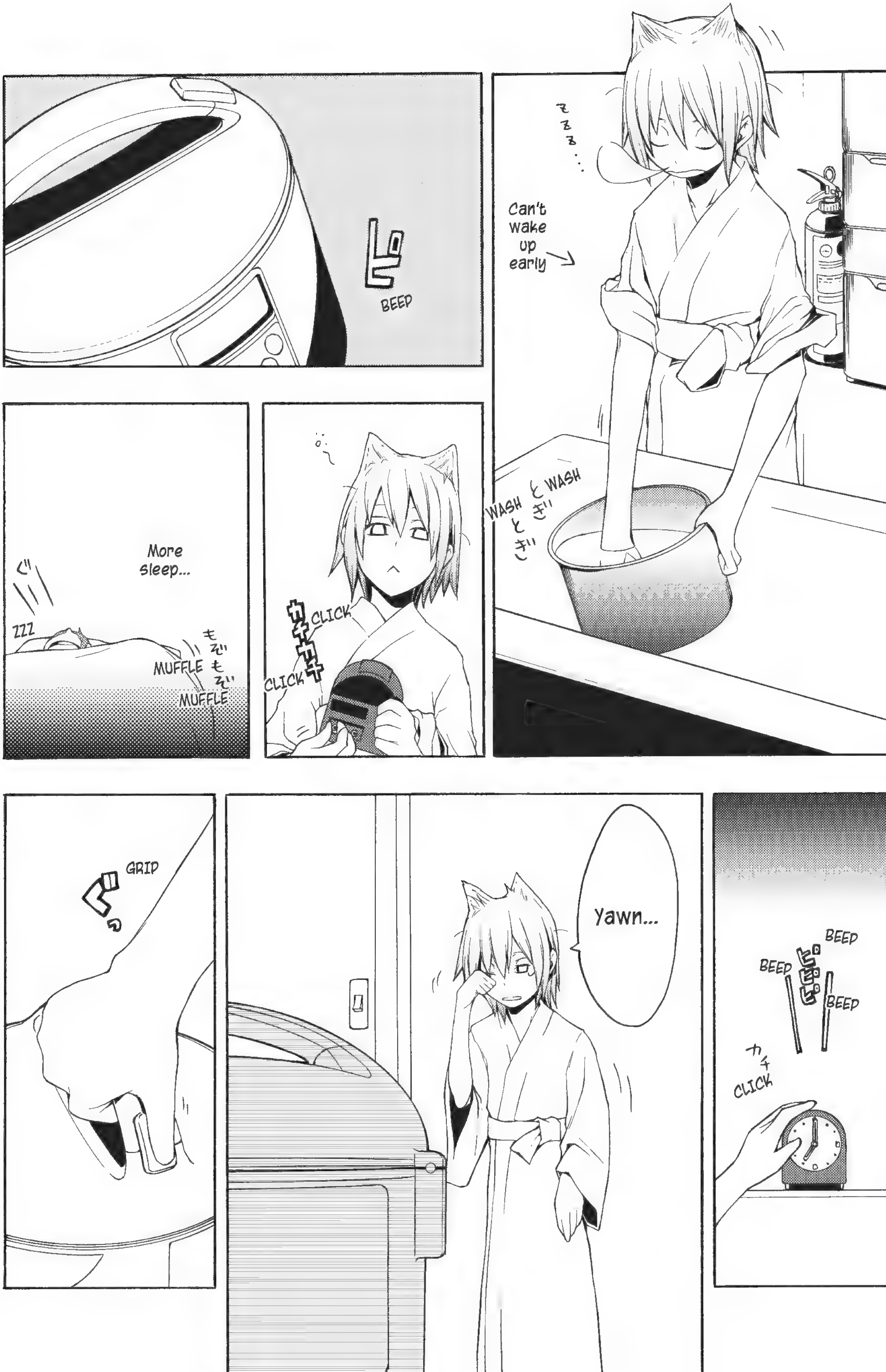
Food:	Japanese sake
Music:	Doesn't listen to any yet
Comedian:	Yasu-Kiyo
Uchi-P member:	Cameraman Tsuji
Little-known fact:	She grows when she is immersed in water

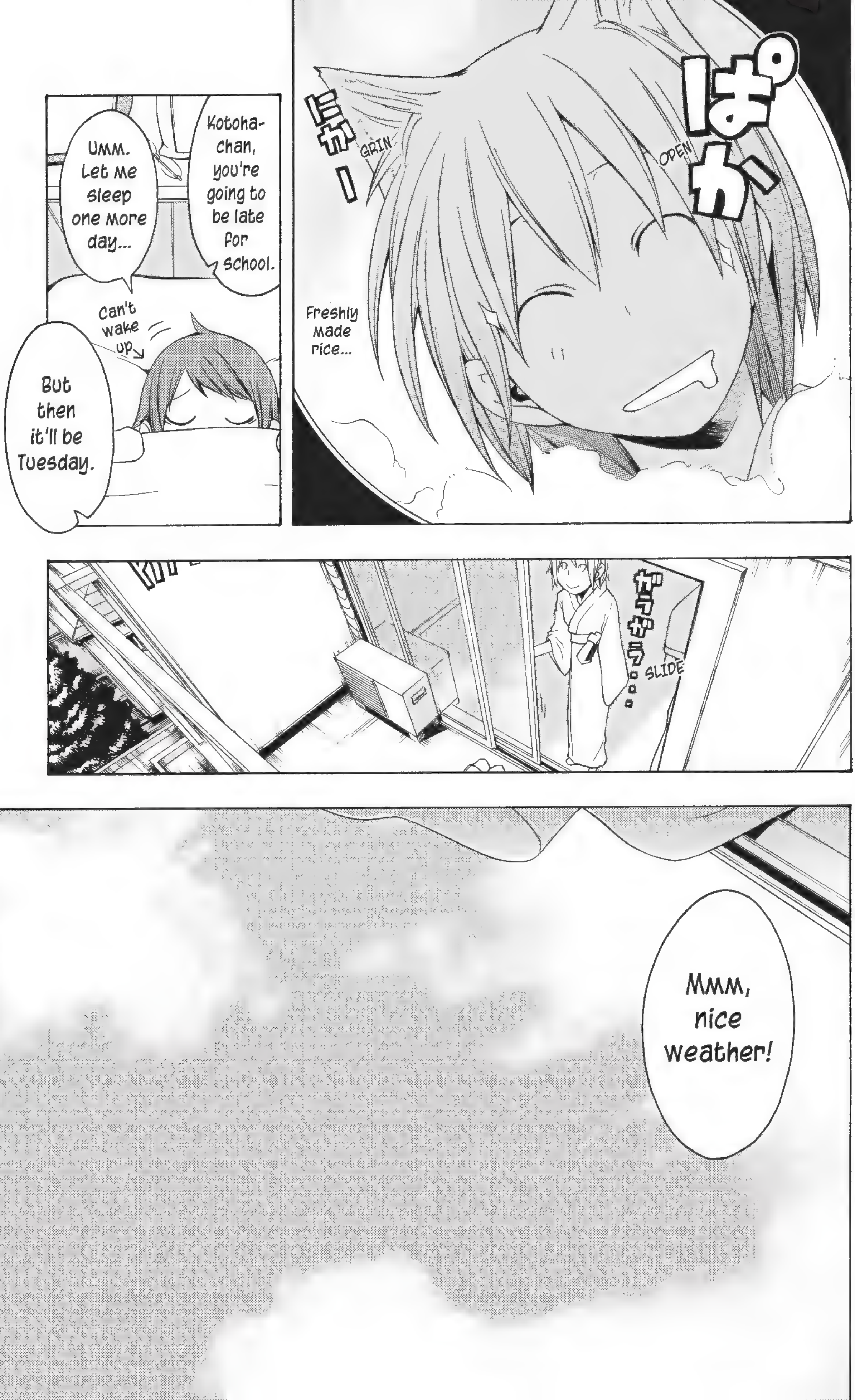
Age:	5
Hobbies:	Walking around town with Mina

Favorites

Food:	Tomatoes
Music:	Doesn't listen to any yet
Comedian:	Doesn't know
Uchi-P member:	Toku-chan
Little-known fact:	She grows when she is immersed in water

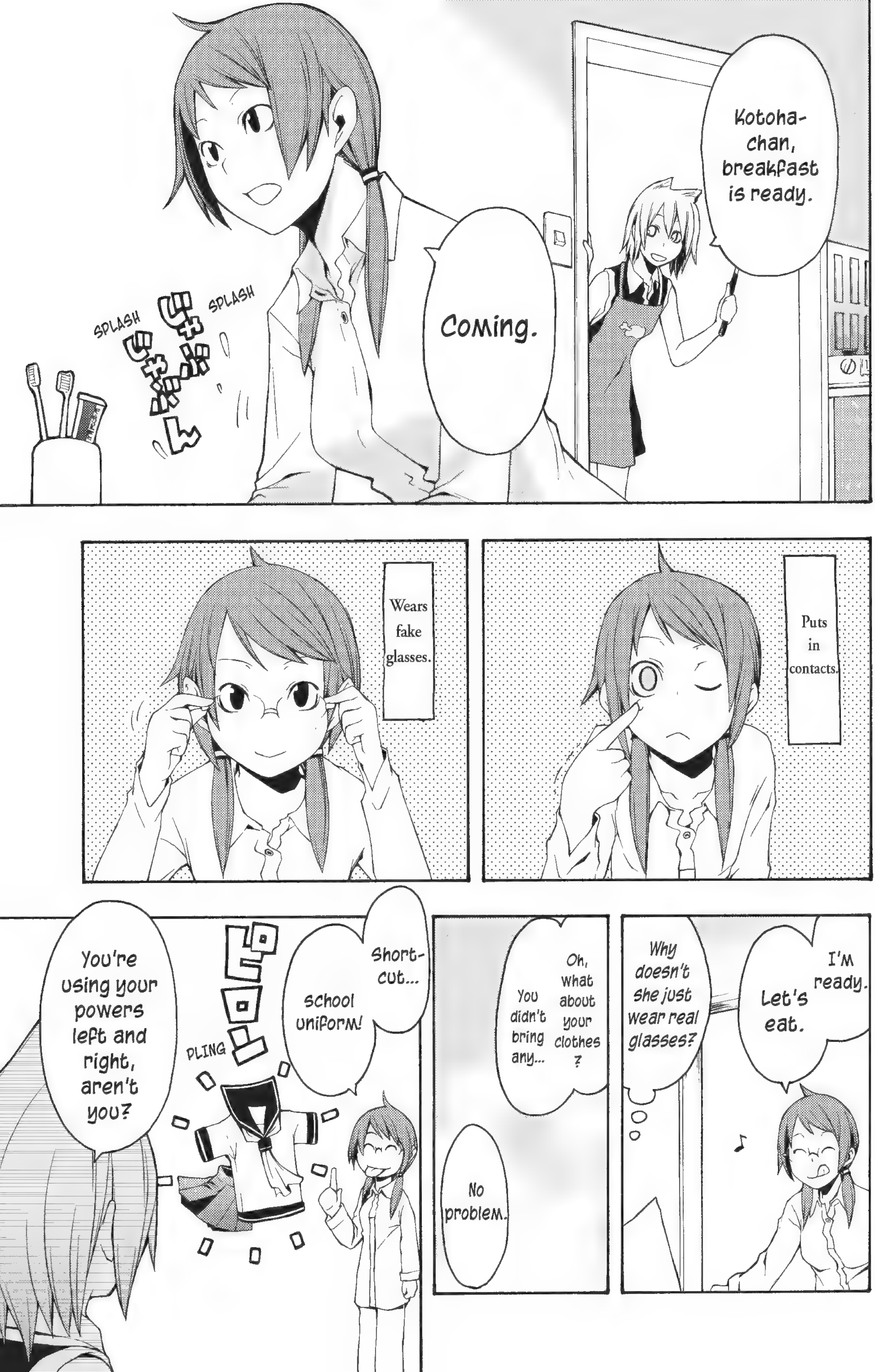

ピピピ
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
CLICK カチ
ピピピ
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
Yawn...
Kotoha slept over after the party!
んがー
SNORE
ふーっ
PHEW.
ぐーぐー
ZZZ

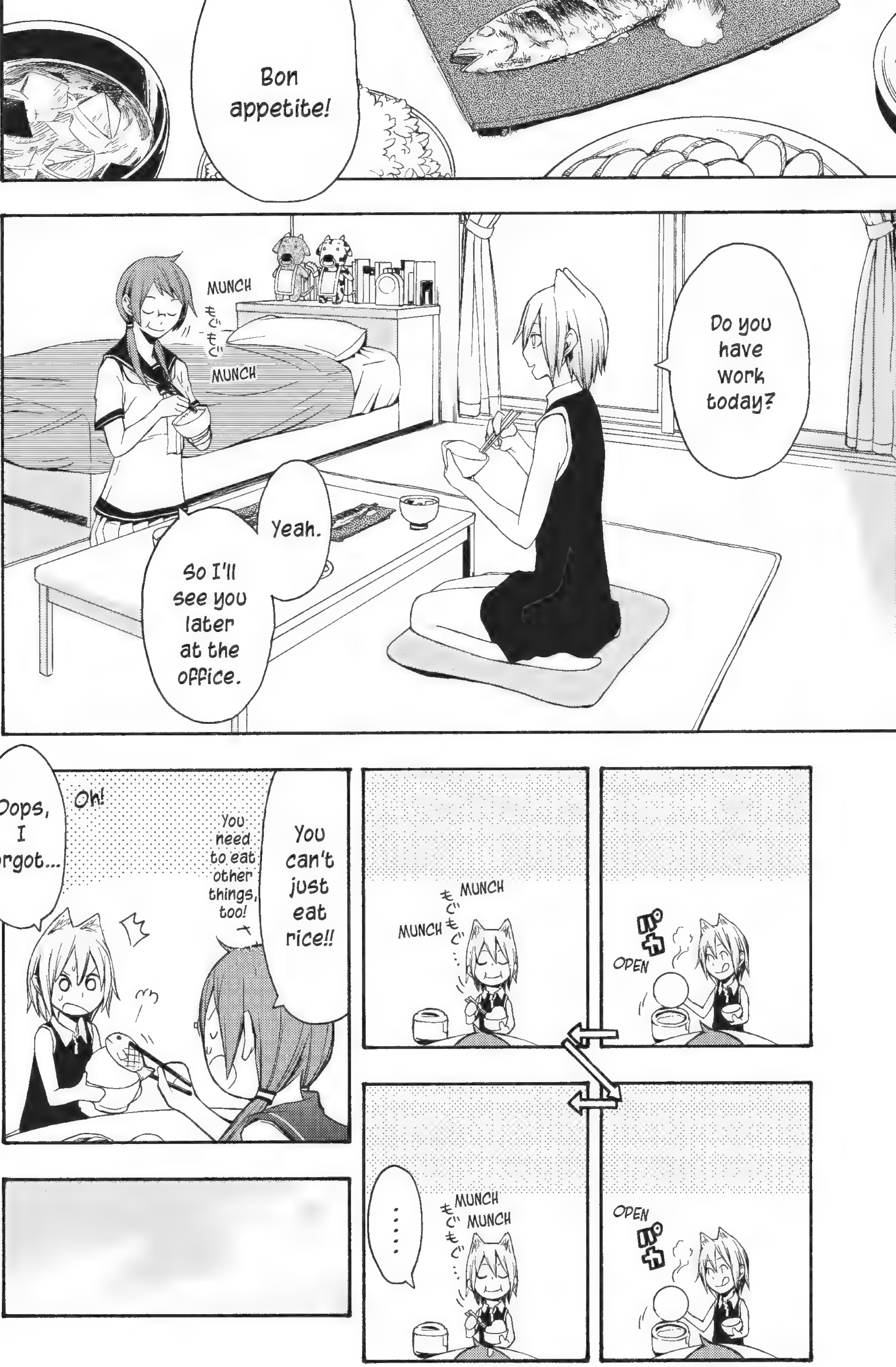

ぞろろ…
Can't wake up early
とぎとぎ WASH WASH
ピ BEEP
カチカチ CLICK CLICK
More sleep...
ぐ
ZZZ
もぞもぞ MUFFLE MUFFLE
ピピピ BEEP BEEP BEEP
カチ CLICK
Yawn...
ぐっ GRIP

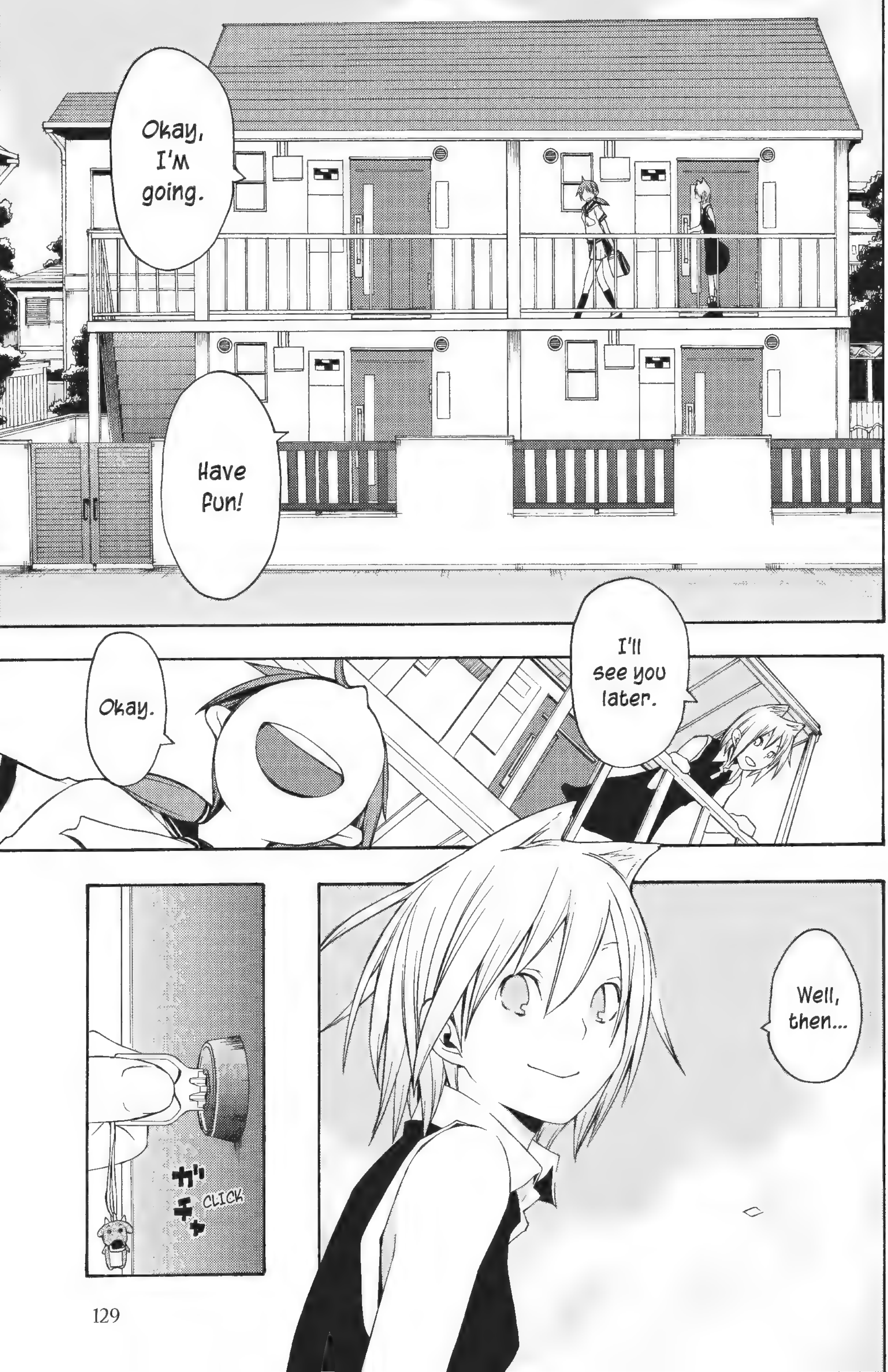

ぱか
OPEN
にかー
GRIN
Freshly made rice...
Kotoha-chan, you're going to be late for school.
Umm. Let me sleep one more day...
Can't wake up
But then it'll be Tuesday.
ガラガラ…
SLIDE
Mmm, nice weather!

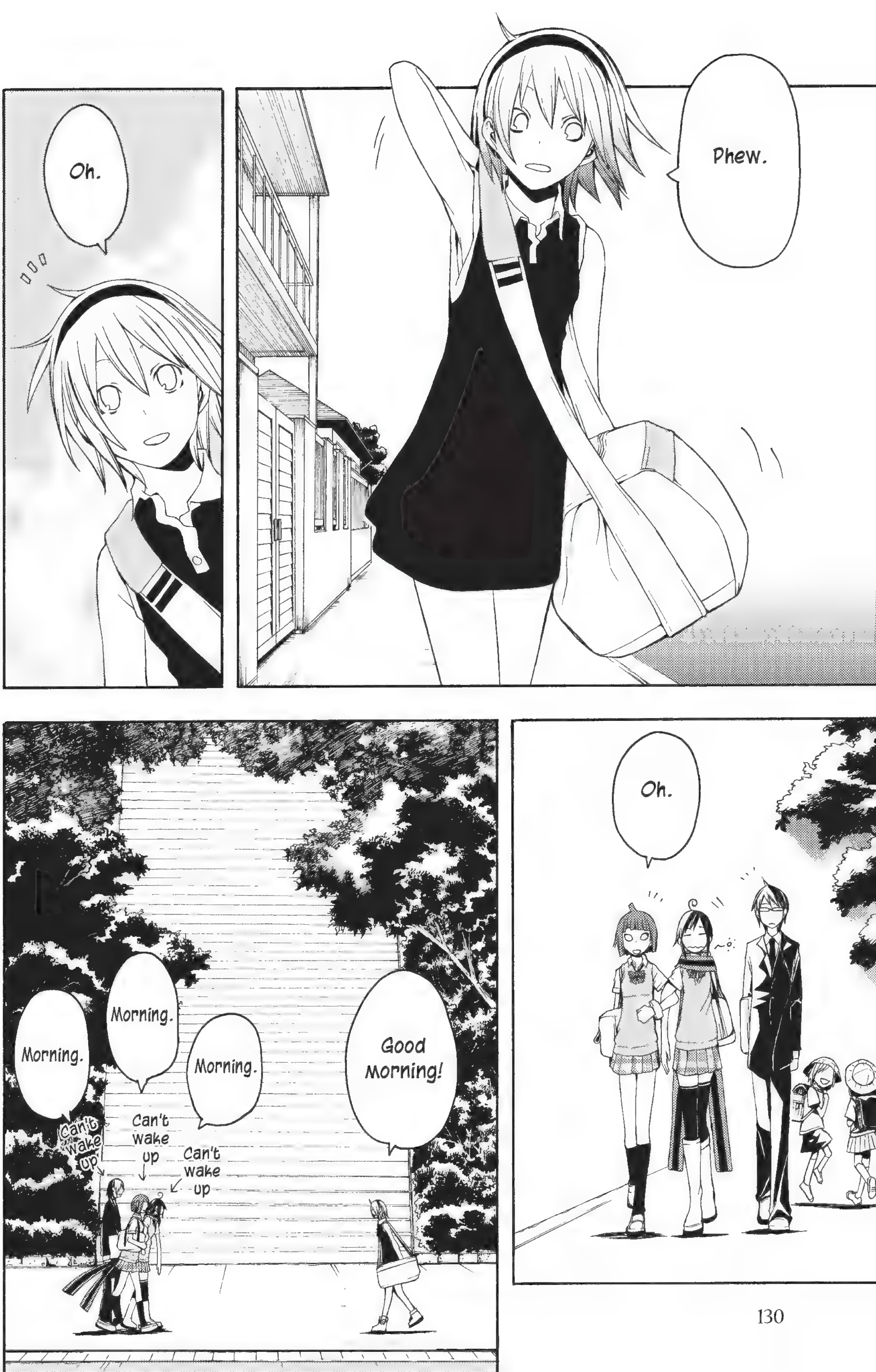
♪
My favorite!

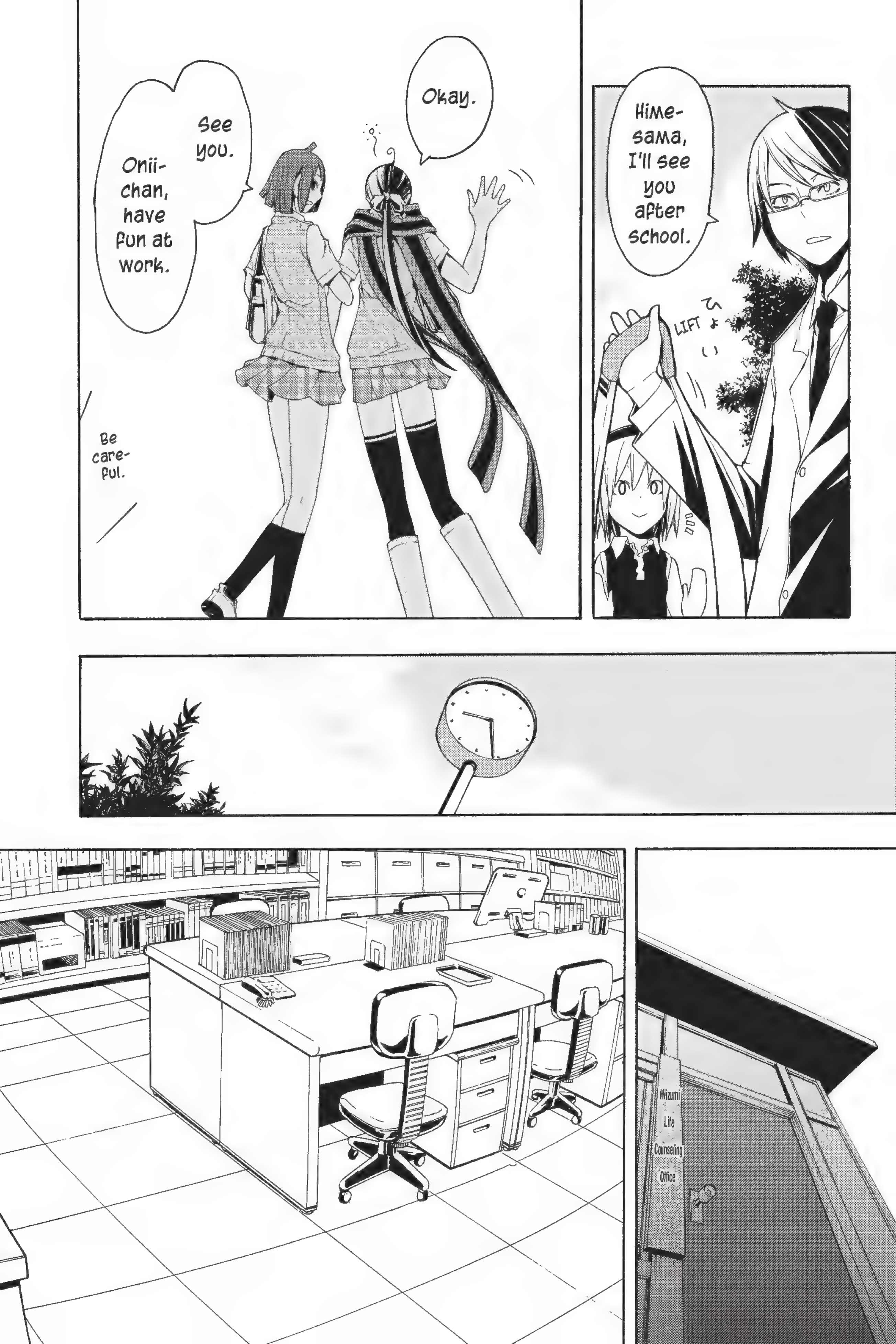
21st Night: Hanamizuki (Part 1)

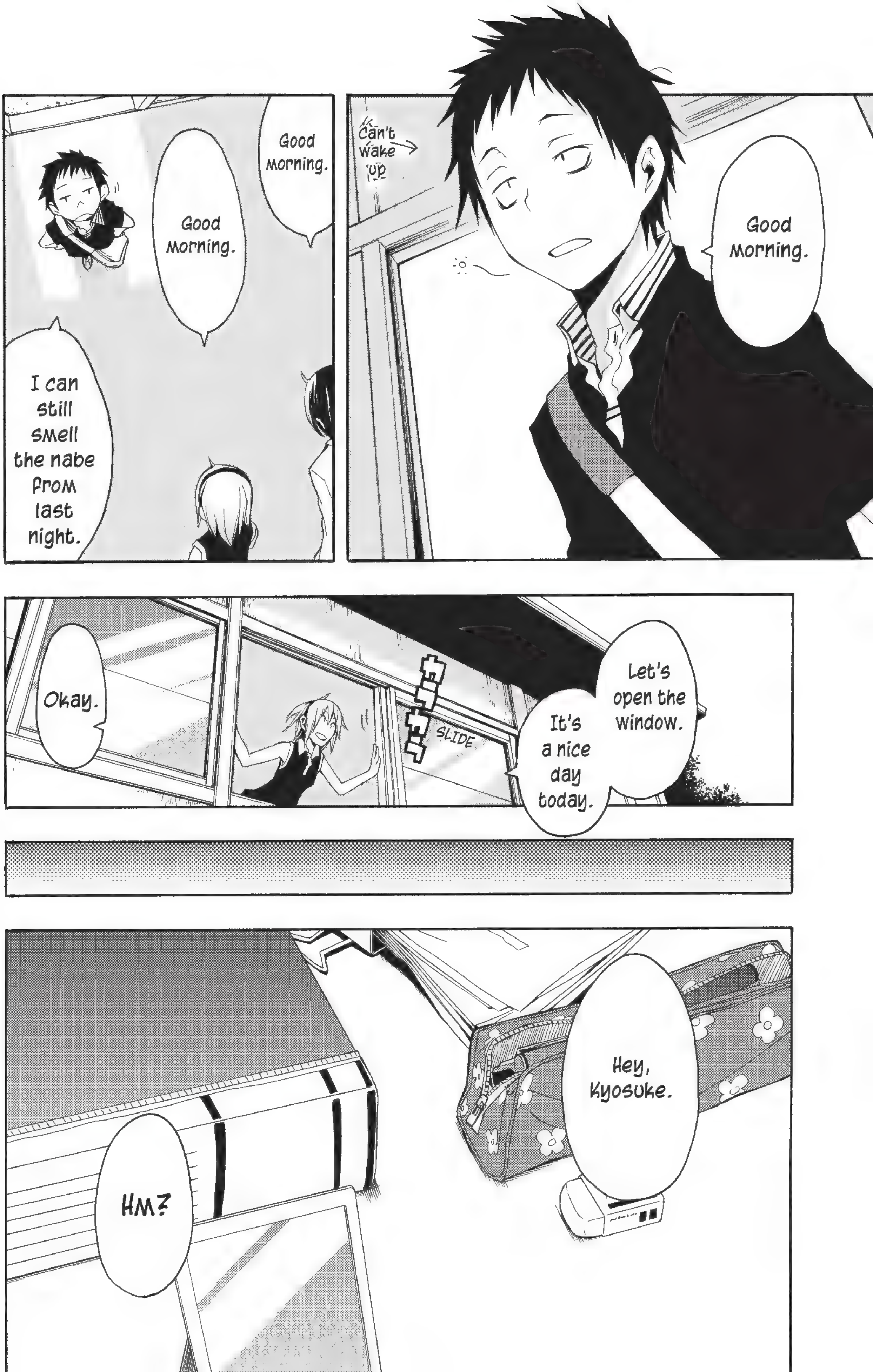

Kotoha-chan, breakfast is ready.
Coming.
SPLASH
SPLASH
Puts in contacts.
Wears fake glasses.
I'm ready.
Let's eat.
Why doesn't she just wear real glasses?
Oh, what about your clothes?
You didn't bring any...
No problem.
Short-cut...
School uniform!
PLING
You're using your powers left and right, aren't you?

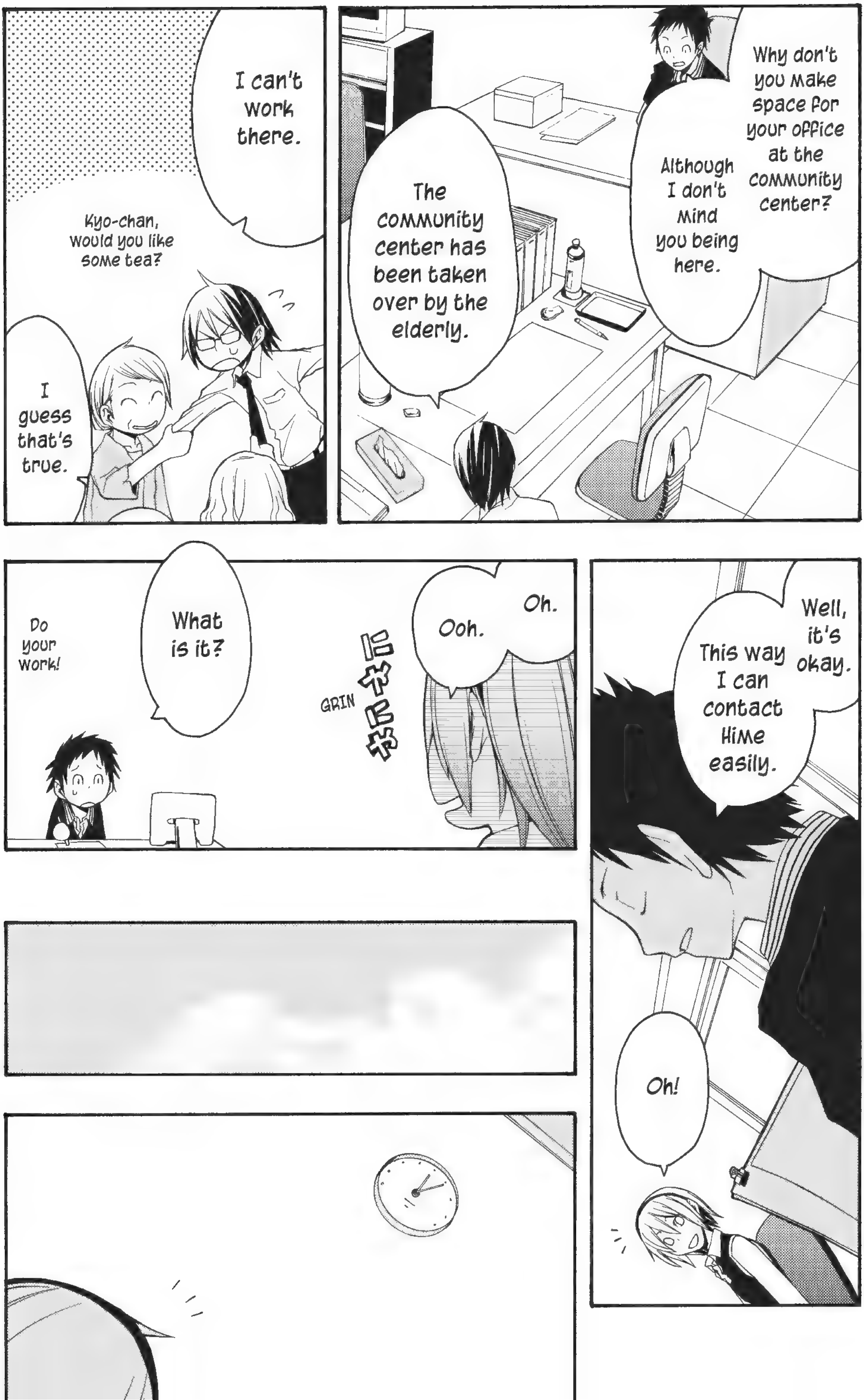

Bon appetite!
Do you have work today?
MUNCH
もぐもぐ
MUNCH
Yeah.
So I'll see you later at the office.
OPEN
パカ
MUNCH
もぐもぐ…
MUNCH
OPEN
パカ
MUNCH
もぐもぐ…
MUNCH
……
You can't just eat rice!!
You need to eat other things, too!
Oh!
Oops, I forgot...

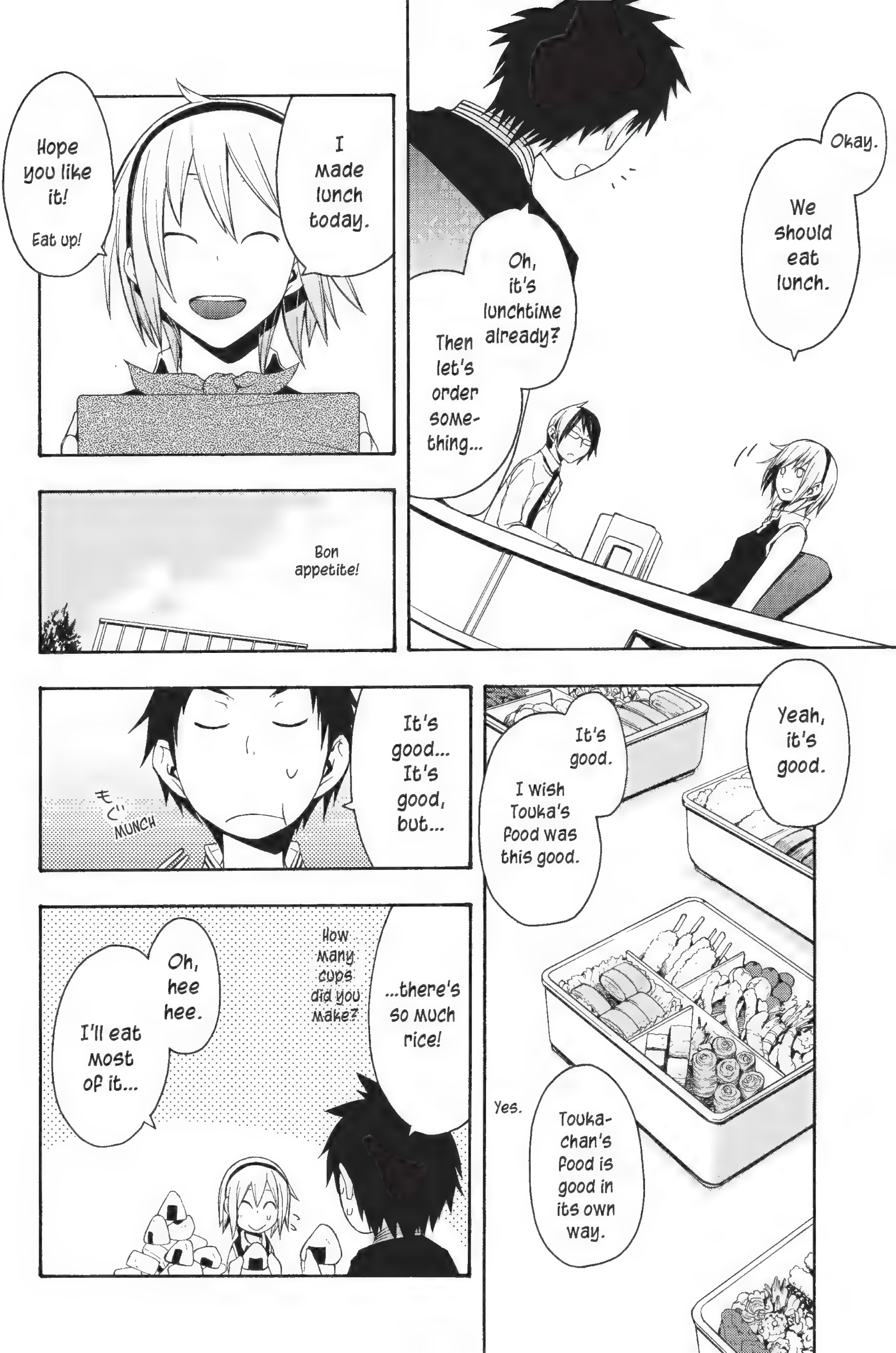

Okay, I'm going.
Have fun!
I'll see you later.
Okay.
Well, then...
ガチャ
CLICK

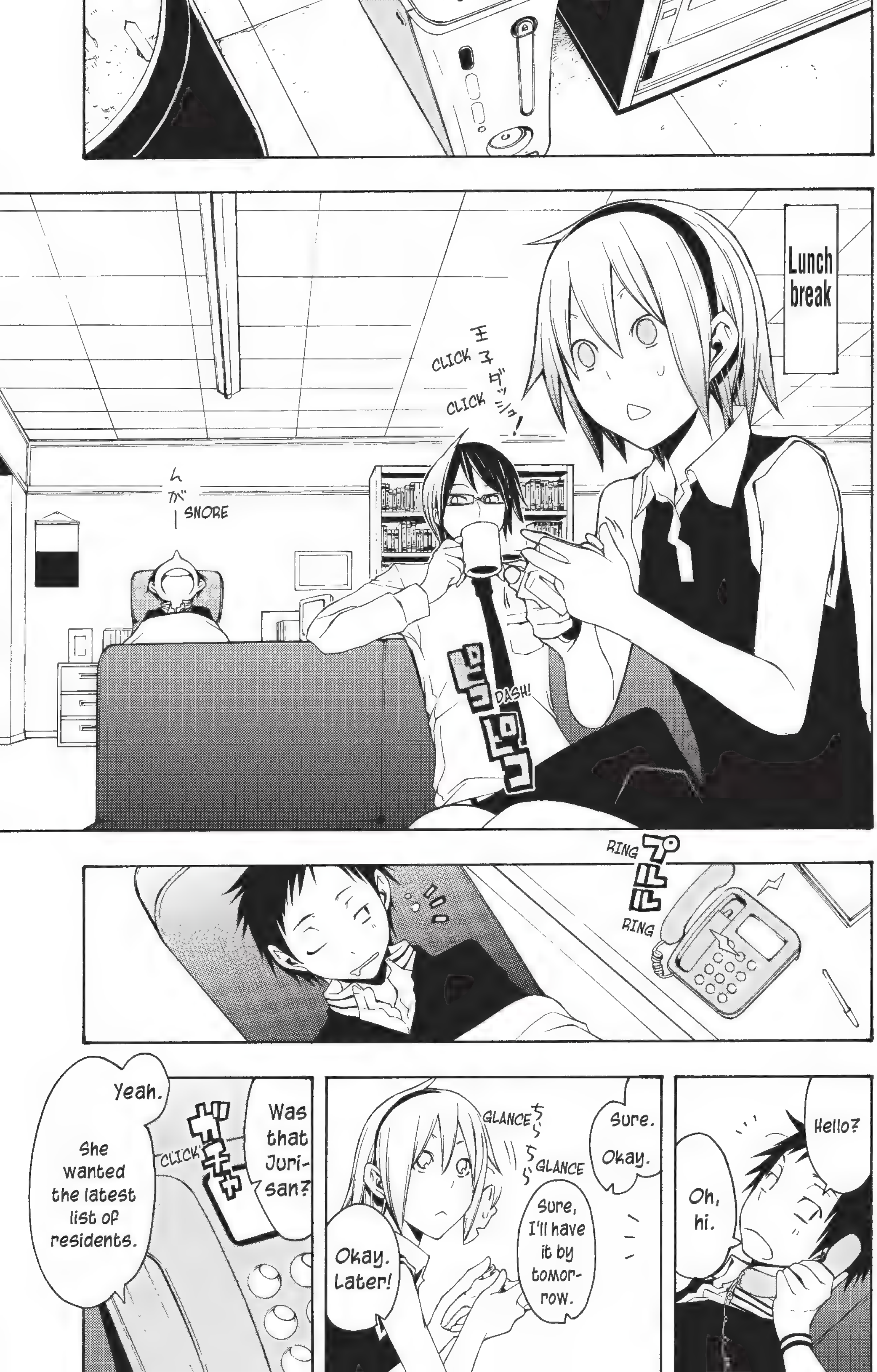

Phew.
Oh.
Oh.
Good Morning!
Morning.
Morning.
Morning.
Can't wake up
Can't wake up
Can't wake up

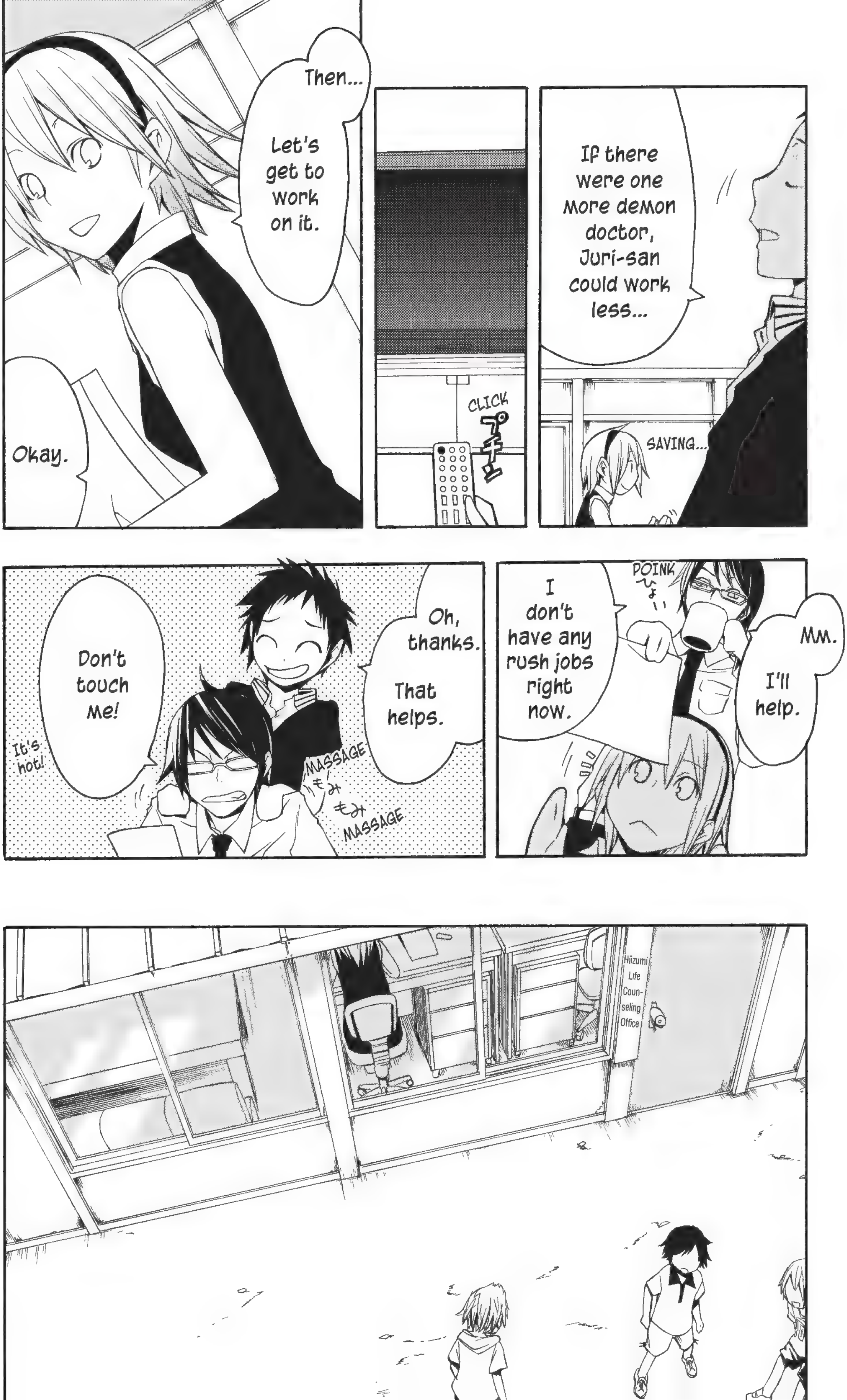

Hime-sama, I'll see you after school.
LIFT
ひょい
Okay.
See you.
Onii-chan, have fun at work.
Be careful.
Hiizumi Life Counseling Office

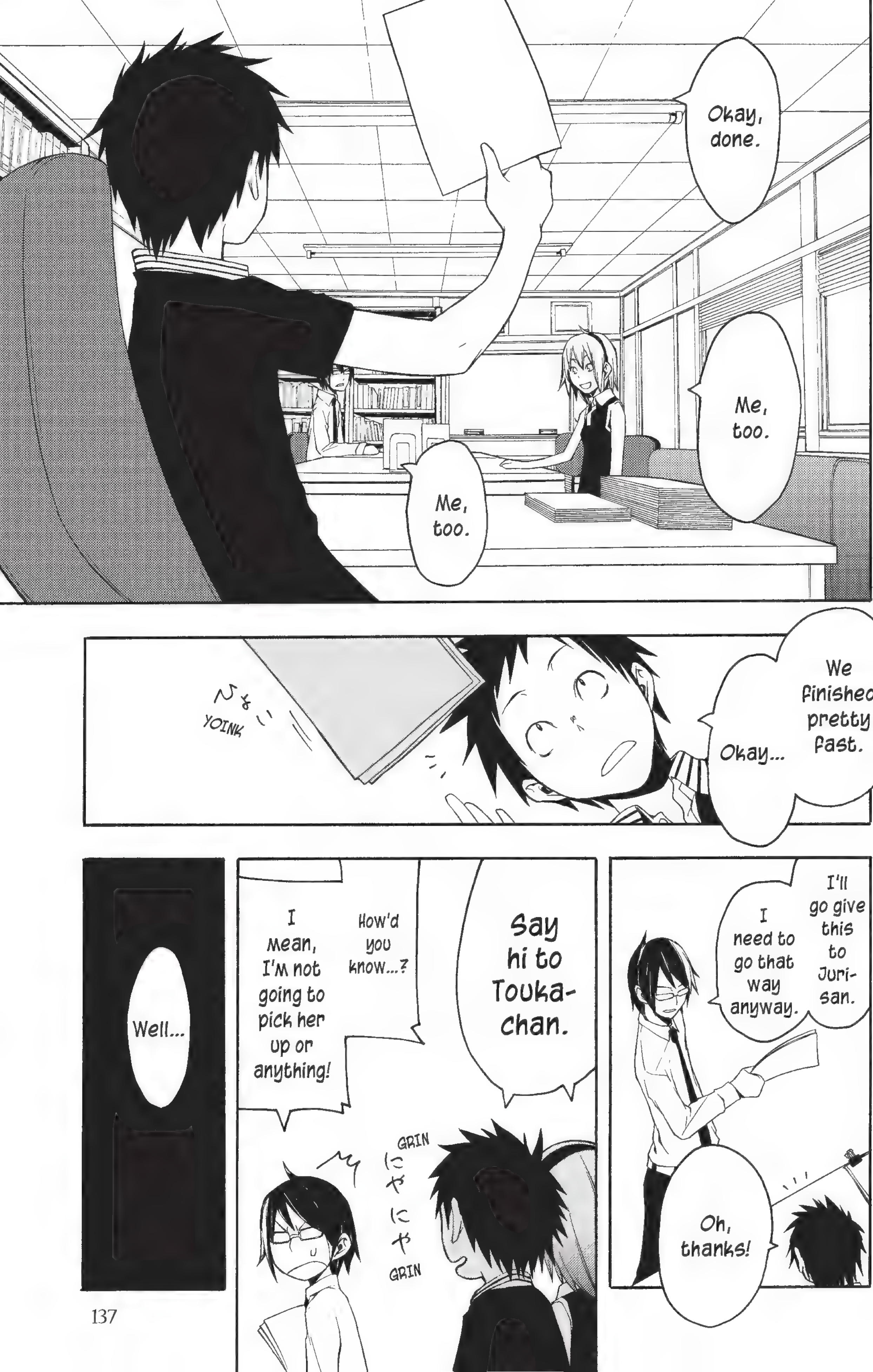

Can't wake up
Good Morning.
Good Morning.
Good Morning.
I can still smell the nabe from last night.
Let's open the window.
It's a nice day today.
カラカラ
SLIDE
Okay.
Hey, Kyosuke.
Hm?

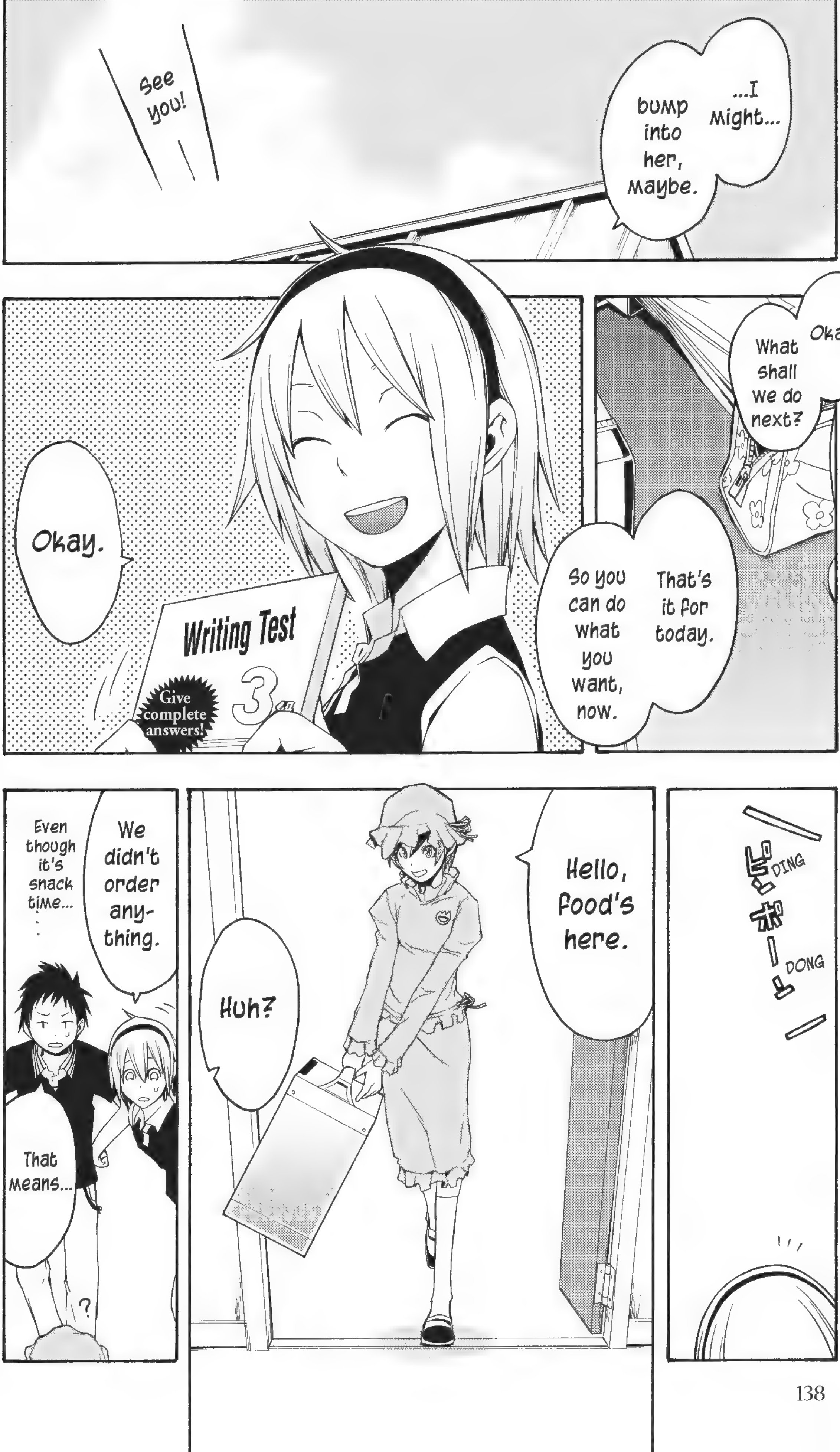

Why don't you make space for your office at the community center?
Although I don't mind you being here.
The community center has been taken over by the elderly.
I can't work there.
Kyo-chan, would you like some tea?
I guess that's true.
Well, it's okay.
This way I can contact Hime easily.
Oh.
Ooh.
ニヤニヤ
GRIN
What is it?
Do your work!
Oh!

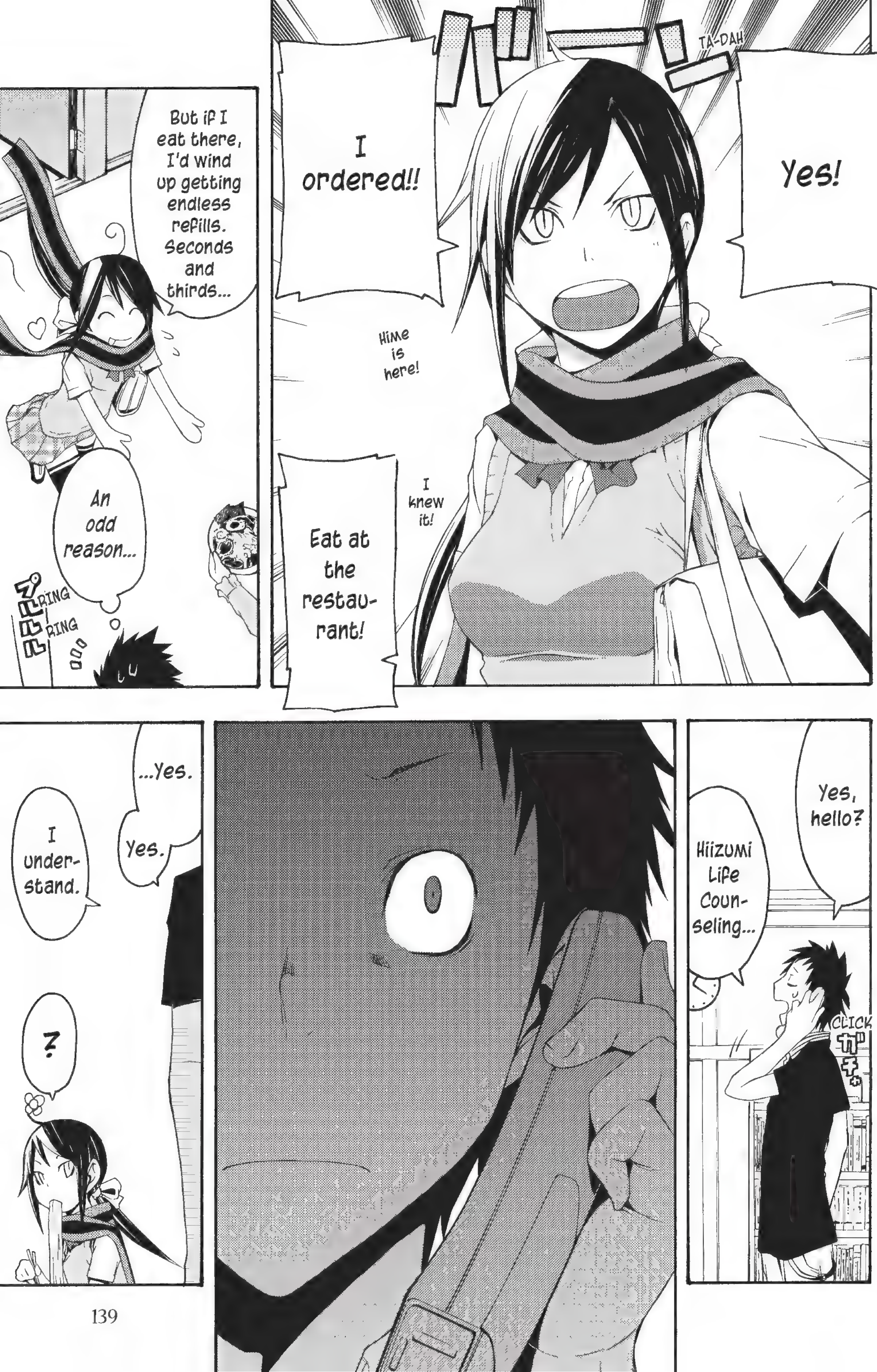

Okay.
We should eat lunch.
Oh, it's lunchtime already?
Then let's order something...
I made lunch today.
Hope you like it!
Eat up!
Bon appetite!
Yeah, it's good.
It's good.
I wish Touka's food was this good.
Yes.
Touka-chan's food is good in its own way.
It's good... It's good, but...
もぐ
MUNCH
...there's so much rice!
How many cups did you make?
Oh, hee hee.
I'll eat most of it...

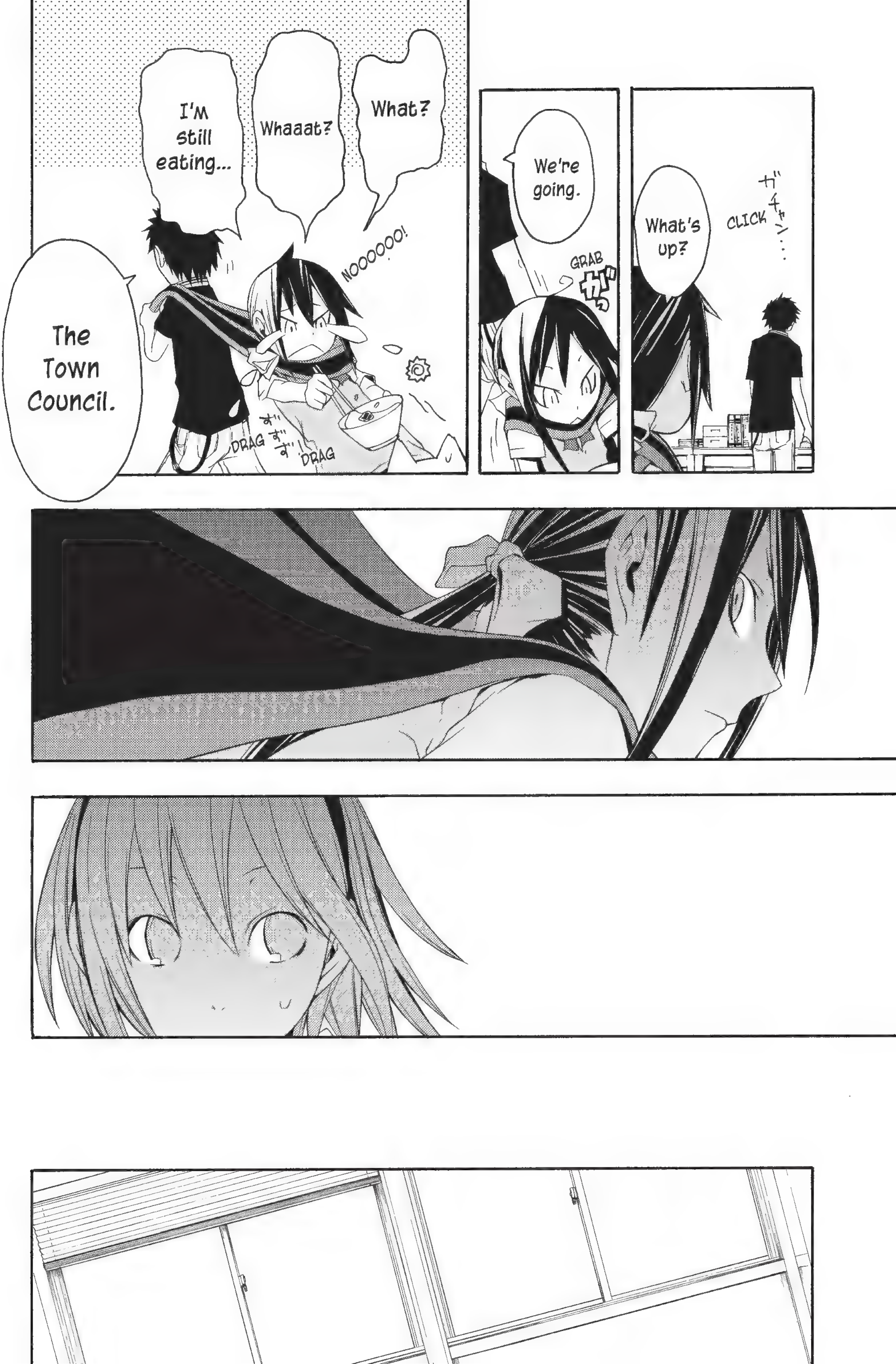

Lunch break
王子ダッシュ!
CLICK
CLICK
んが
SNORE
ピコピコ
DASH!
プルル
RING
RING
Hello?
Oh, hi.
Sure.
Okay.
Sure, I'll have it by tomorrow.
ちら
GLANCE
ちら
GLANCE
Okay. Later!
Was that Juri-san?
ガチャ
CLICK
Yeah.
She wanted the latest list of residents.

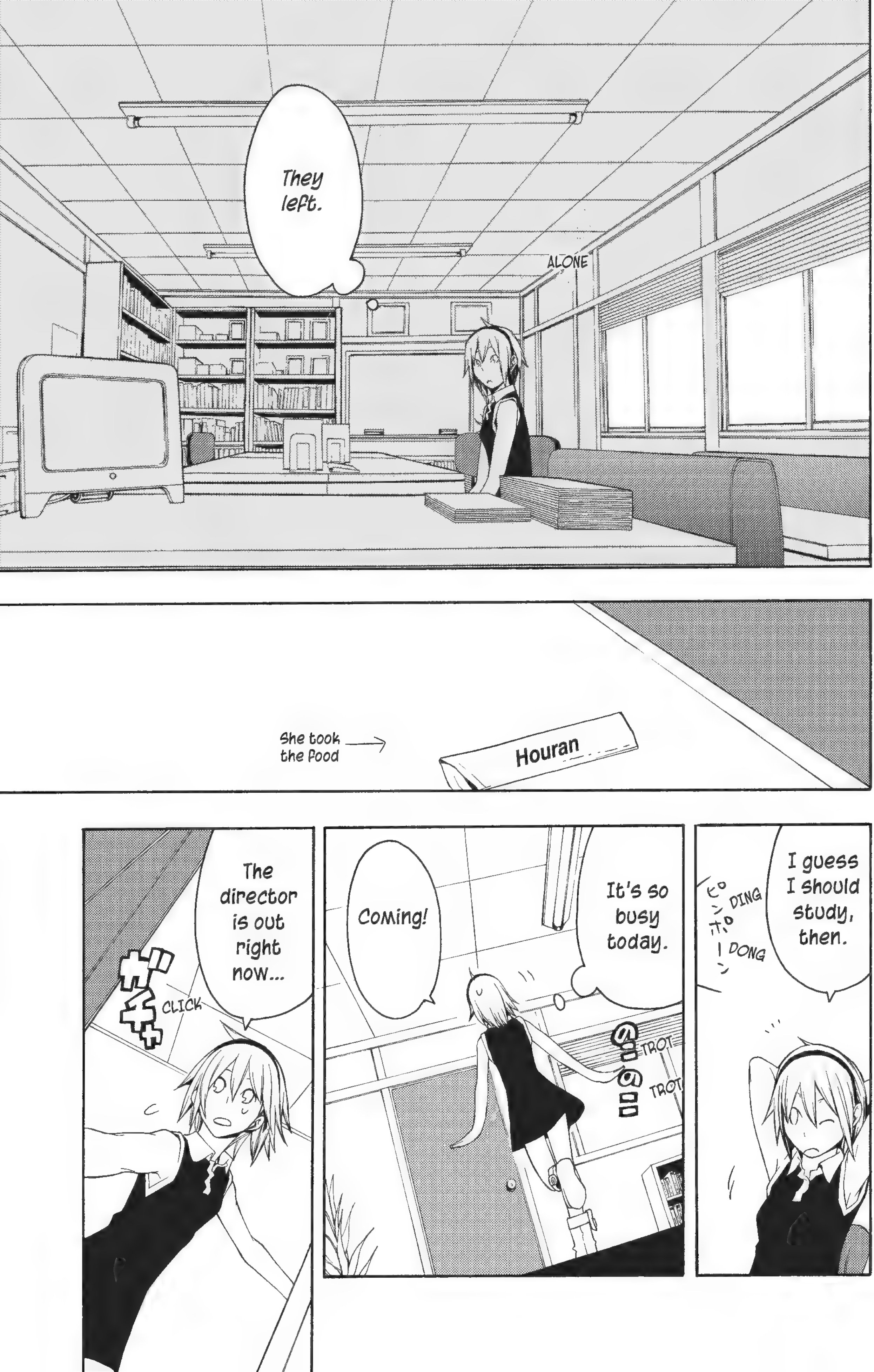

If there were one more demon doctor, Juri-san could work less...
SAVING...
CLICK
プチッ
Then...
Let's get to work on it.
Okay.
POINK
I don't have any rush jobs right now.
Mm.
I'll help.
Oh, thanks.
That helps.
MASSAGE
もみ もみ
MASSAGE
Don't touch me!
It's hot!
Hiizumi Life Counseling Office

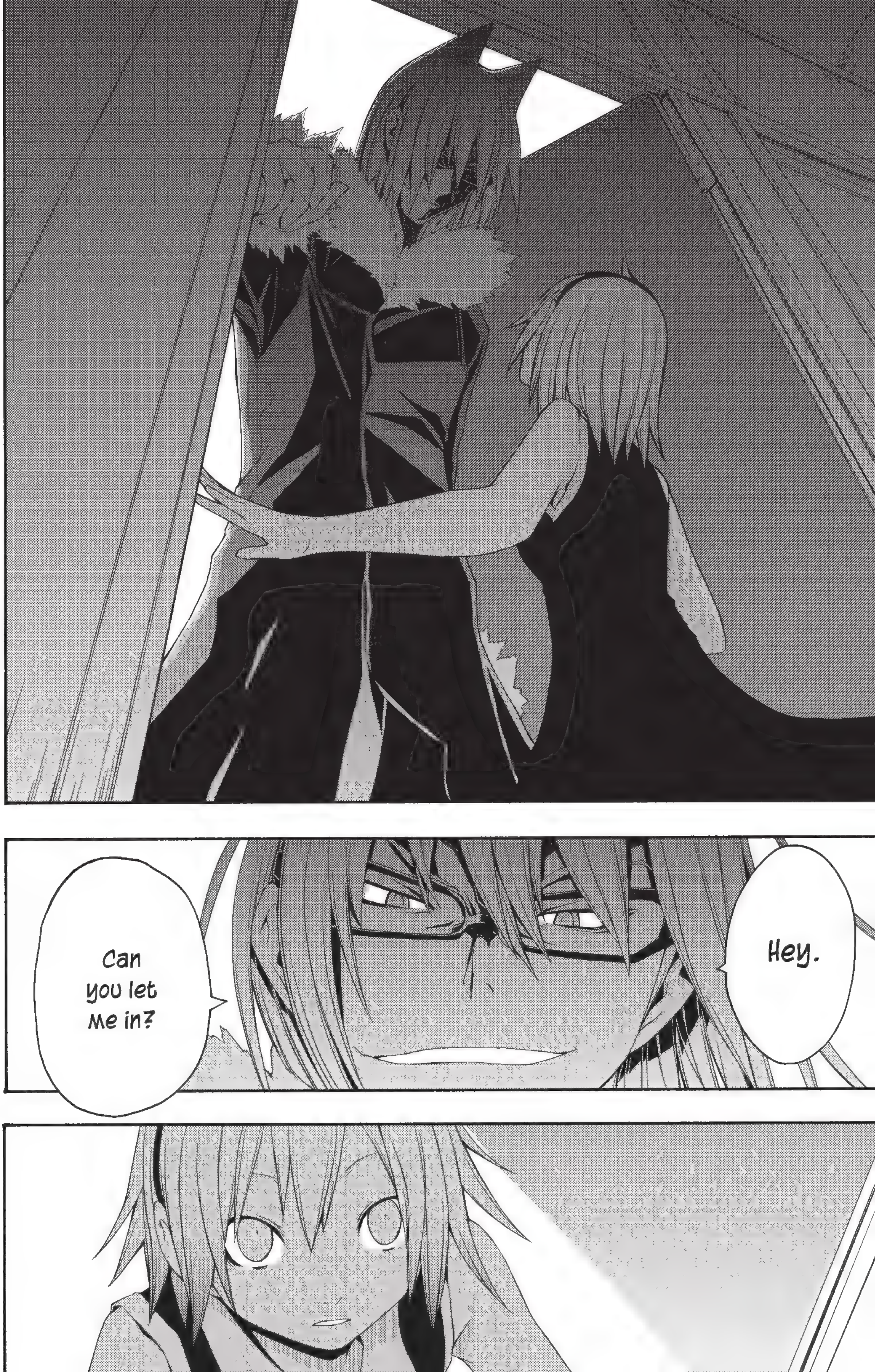

Okay, done.
Me, too.
Me, too.
We finished pretty fast.
Okay...
ひょい
YOINK
I'll go give this to Juri-san.
I need to go that way anyway.
Oh, thanks!
Say hi to Touka-chan.
How'd you know...?
I mean, I'm not going to pick her up or anything!
にやにや
GRIN
GRIN
Well...

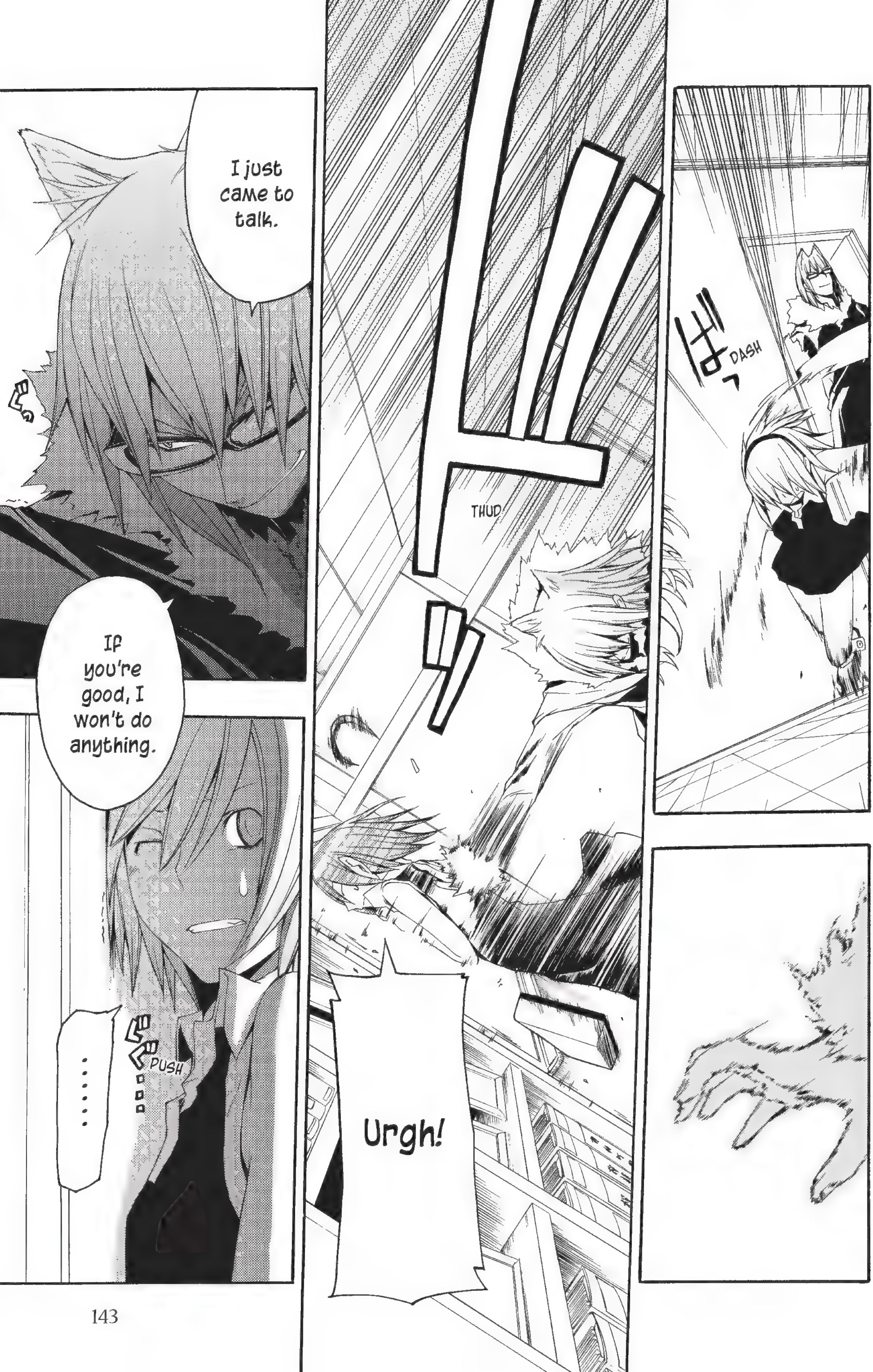

...I might... bump into her, maybe.
See you!
Okay. What shall we do next?
That's it for today. So you can do what you want, now.
Okay.
Writing Test
3
Give complete answers!
ピンポーン DING DONG
Hello, food's here.
Huh?
We didn't order anything.
Even though it's snack time...
That means...
?

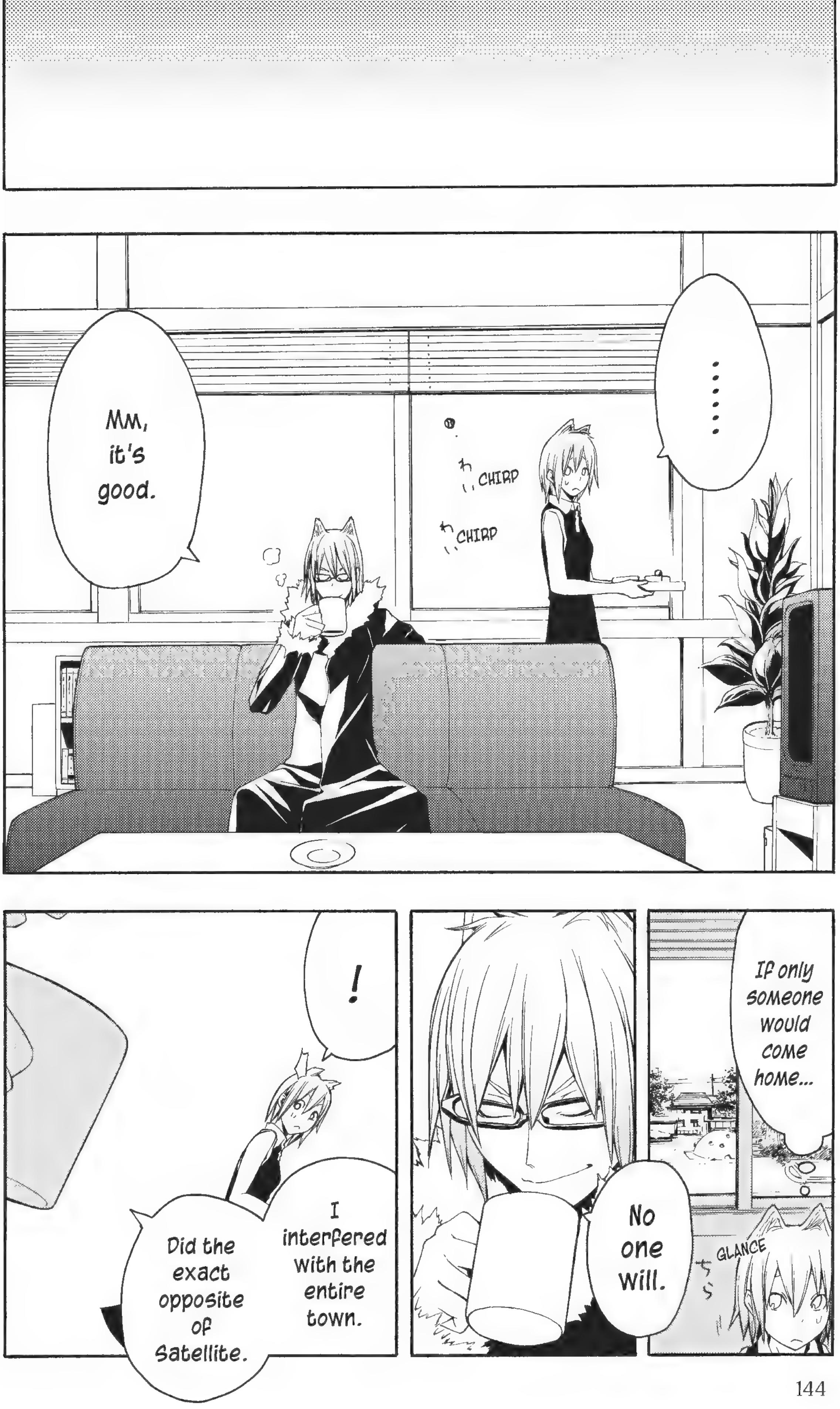

TA-DAH
Yes!
I ordered!!
Hime is here!
I knew it!
Eat at the restaurant!
But if I eat there, I'd wind up getting endless refills. Seconds and thirds...
An odd reason...
RING RING
Yes, hello?
Hiizumi Life Counseling...
CLICK
...Yes.
Yes.
I understand.
?

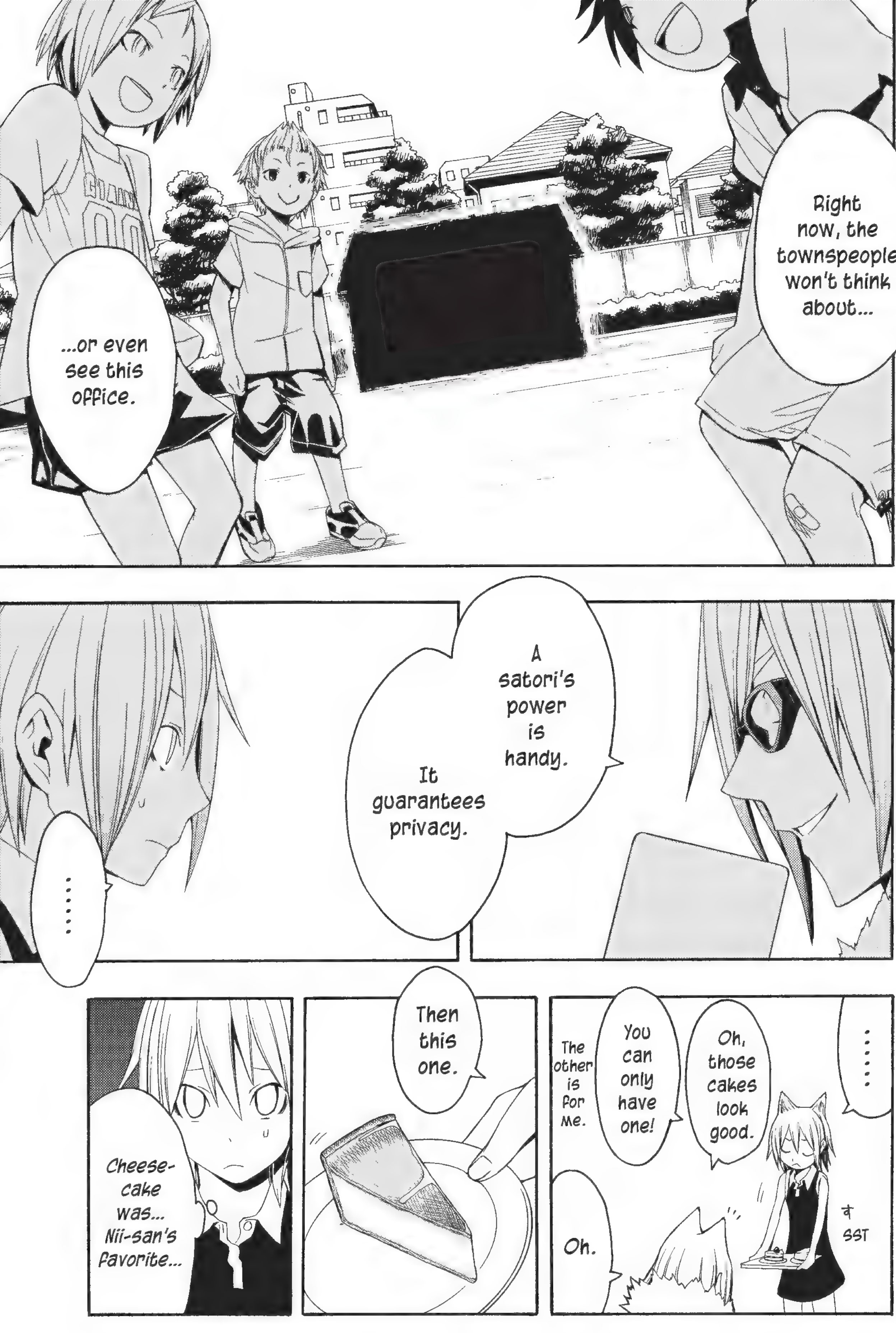

ガチャン
CLICK
What's up?
We're going.
GRAB
がっ
What?
Whaaat?
I'm still eating...
NOOOOOOO!
The Town Council.
ずず
DRAG
DRAG

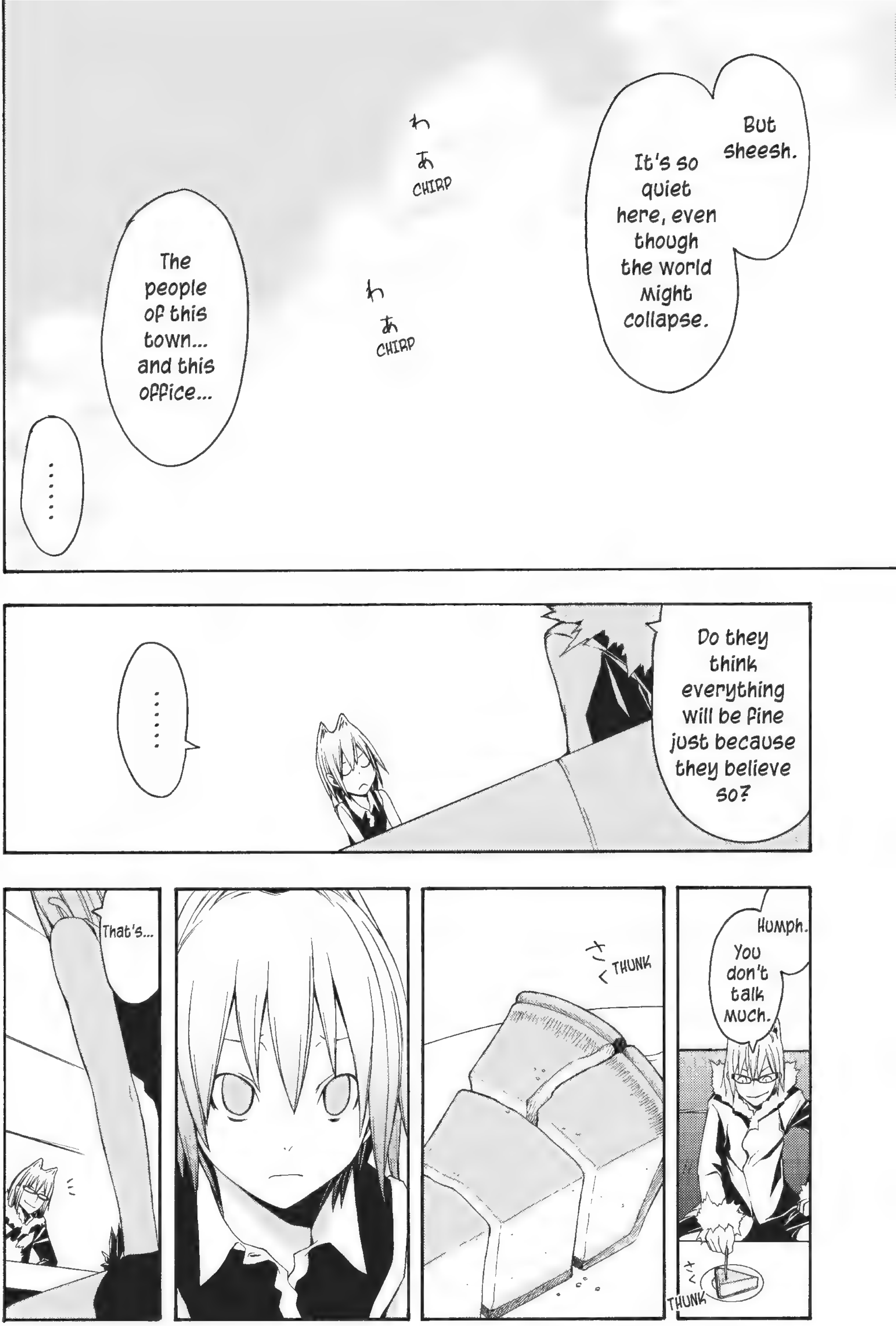

They left.
ALONE
She took the food
Houran
I guess I should study, then.
ピンポーン
DING DONG
It's so busy today.
Coming!
TROT TROT
The director is out right now...
CLICK

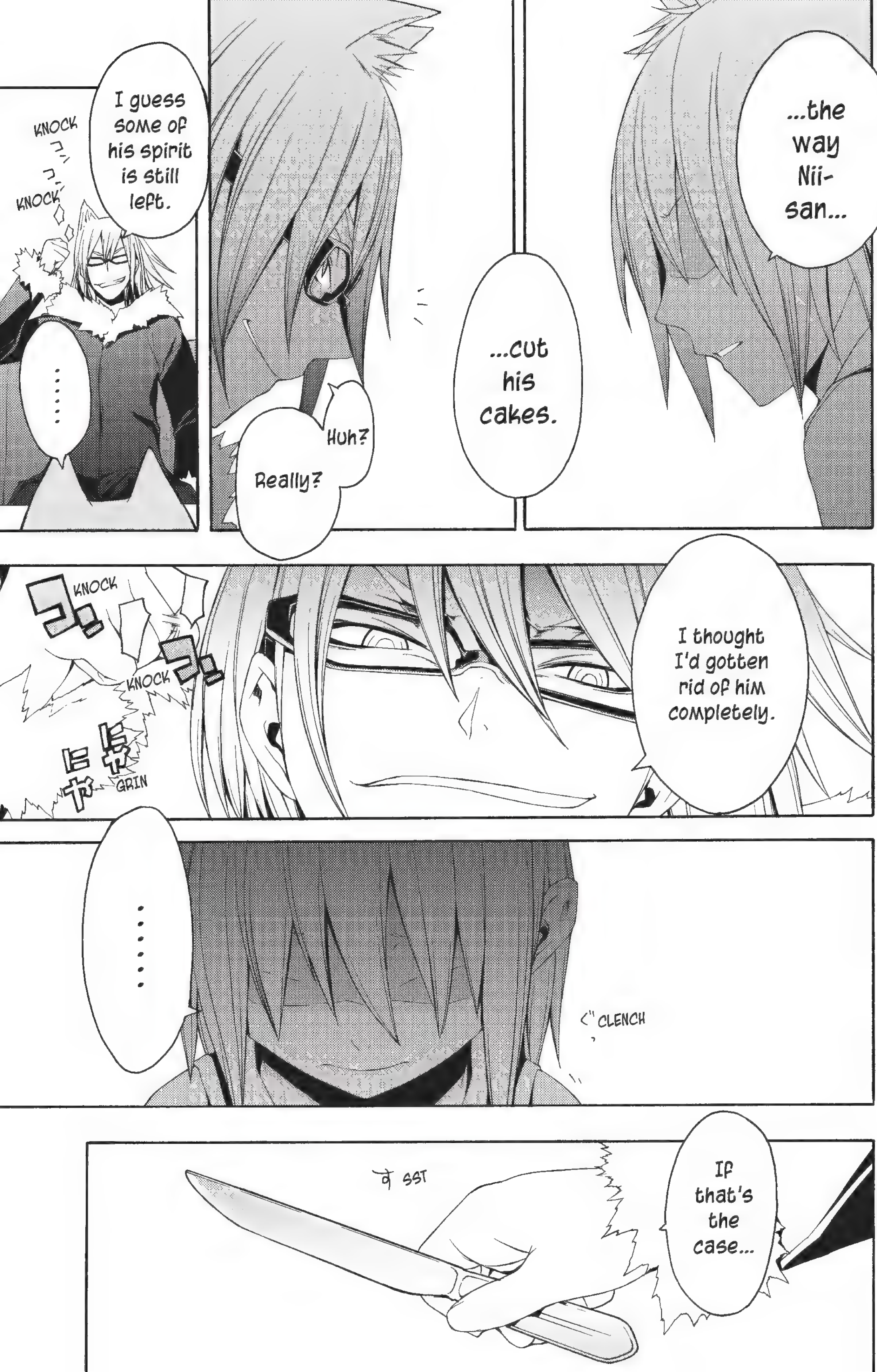

Hey.
Can you let me in?

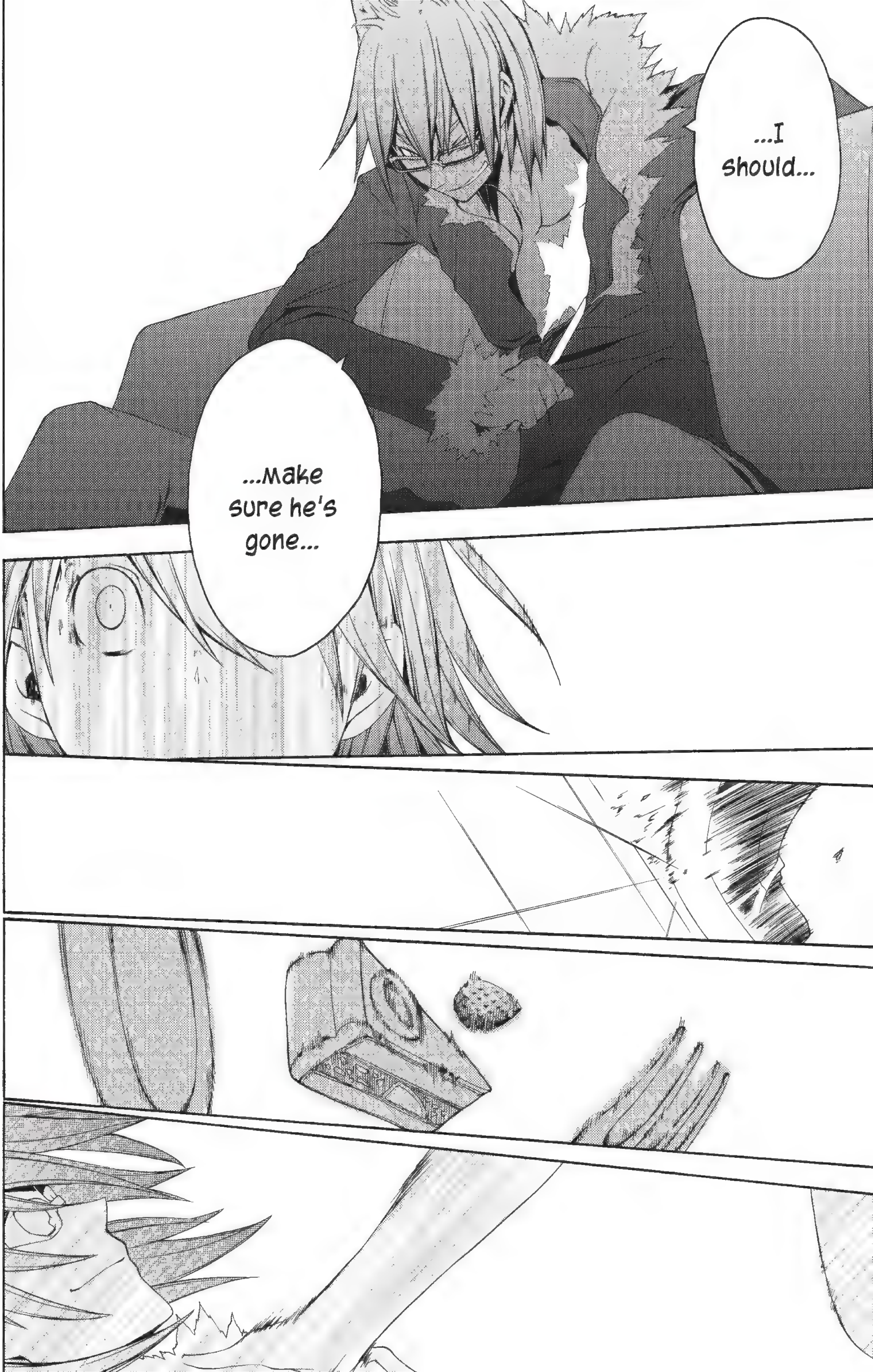

I just came to talk.
If you're good, I won't do anything.
......
PUSH
DASH
THUD
Urgh!

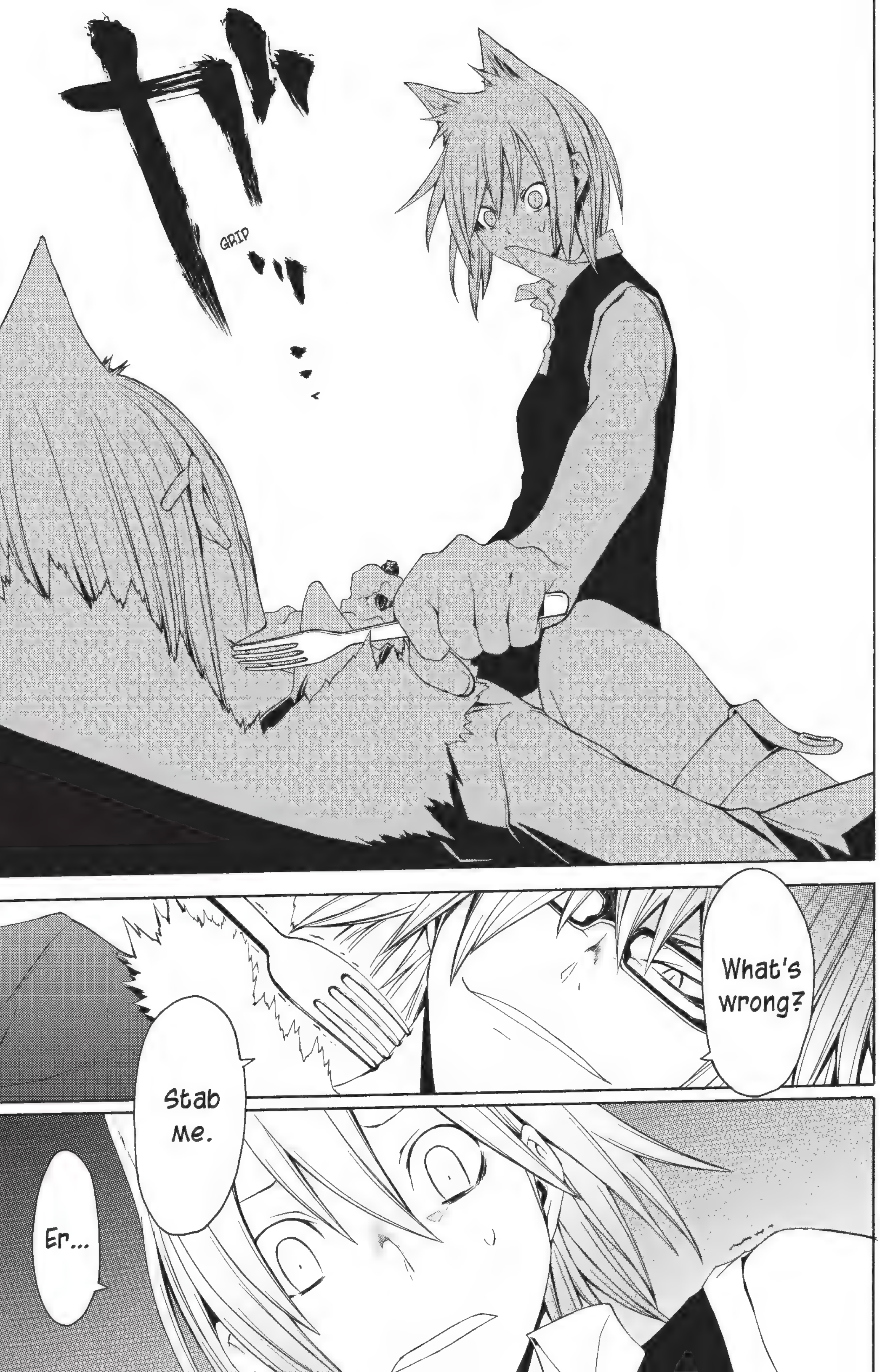

......
わ CHIRP
わ CHIRP
Mm, it's good.
If only someone would come home...
ちら GLANCE
No one will.
!
I interfered with the entire town.
Did the exact opposite of Satellite.

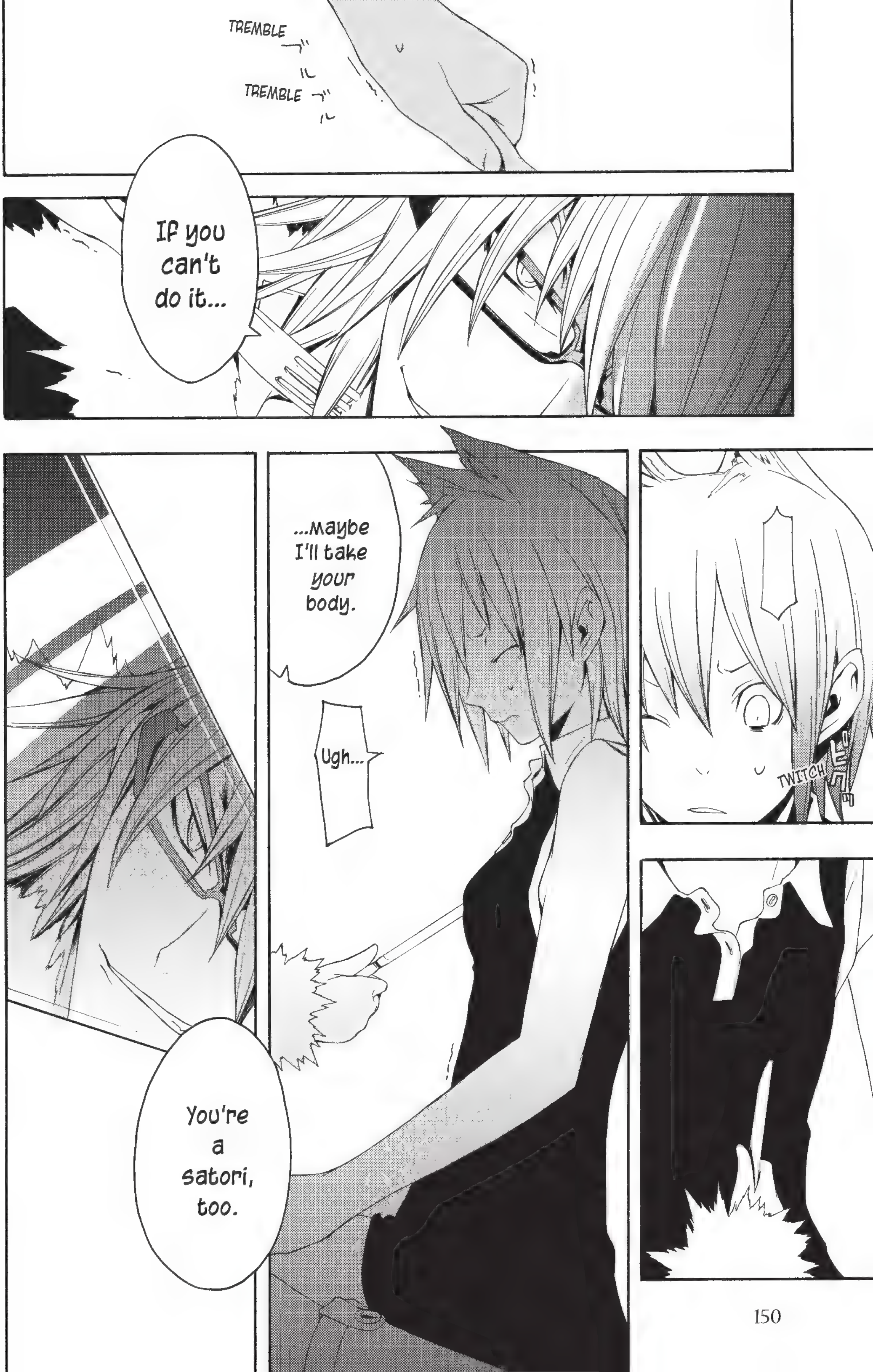

Right now, the townspeople won't think about...
...or even see this office.
A satori's power is handy.
It guarantees privacy.
......
......
Oh, those cakes look good.
You can only have one!
The other is for me.
Oh.
す SST
Then this one.
Cheese-cake was... Nii-san's favorite...

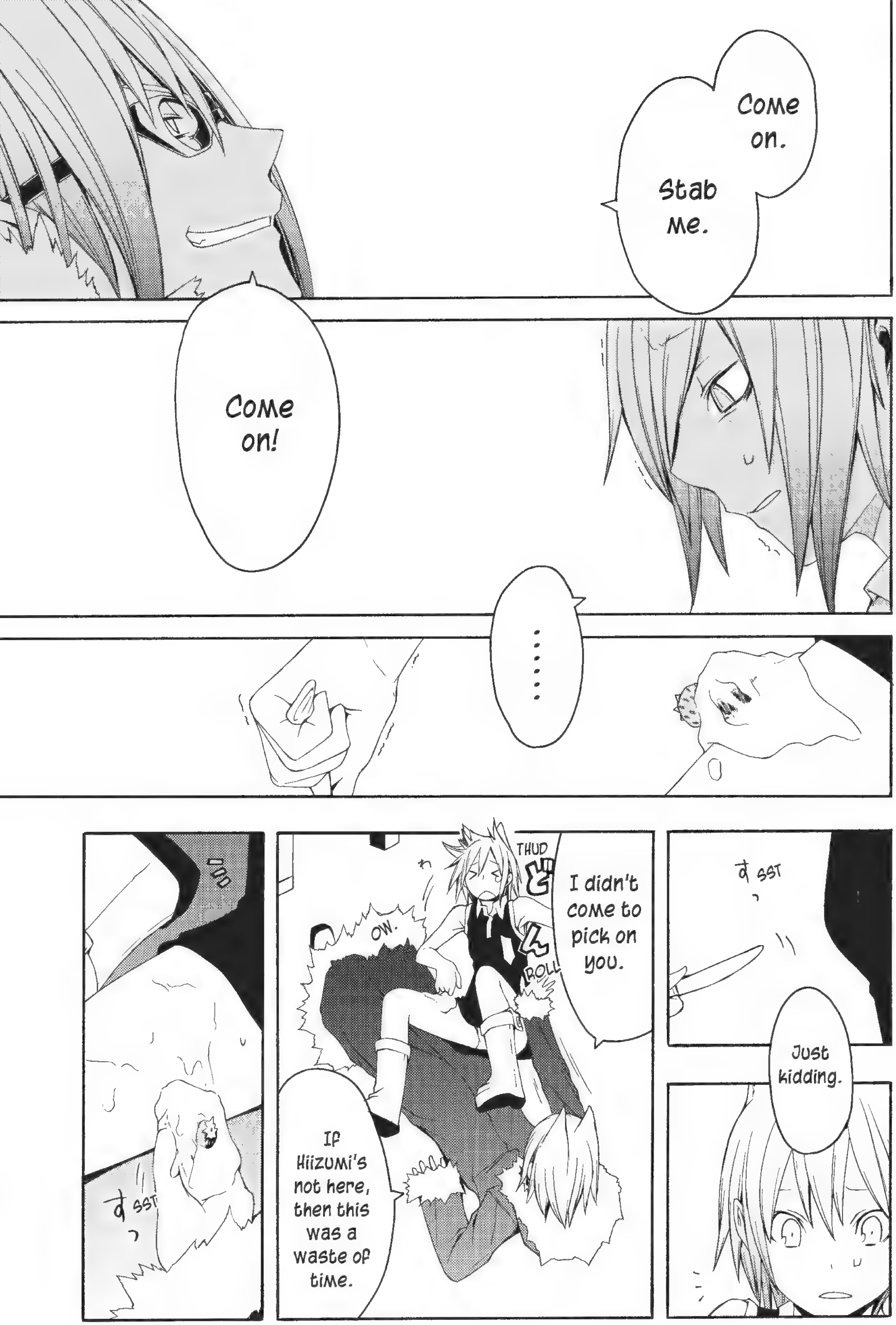

But sheesh.
It's so quiet here, even though the world might collapse.
わあ CHIRP
わあ CHIRP
The people of this town... and this office...
......
Do they think everything will be fine just because they believe so?
......
Humph. You don't talk much.
さく THUNK
さく THUNK
That's...

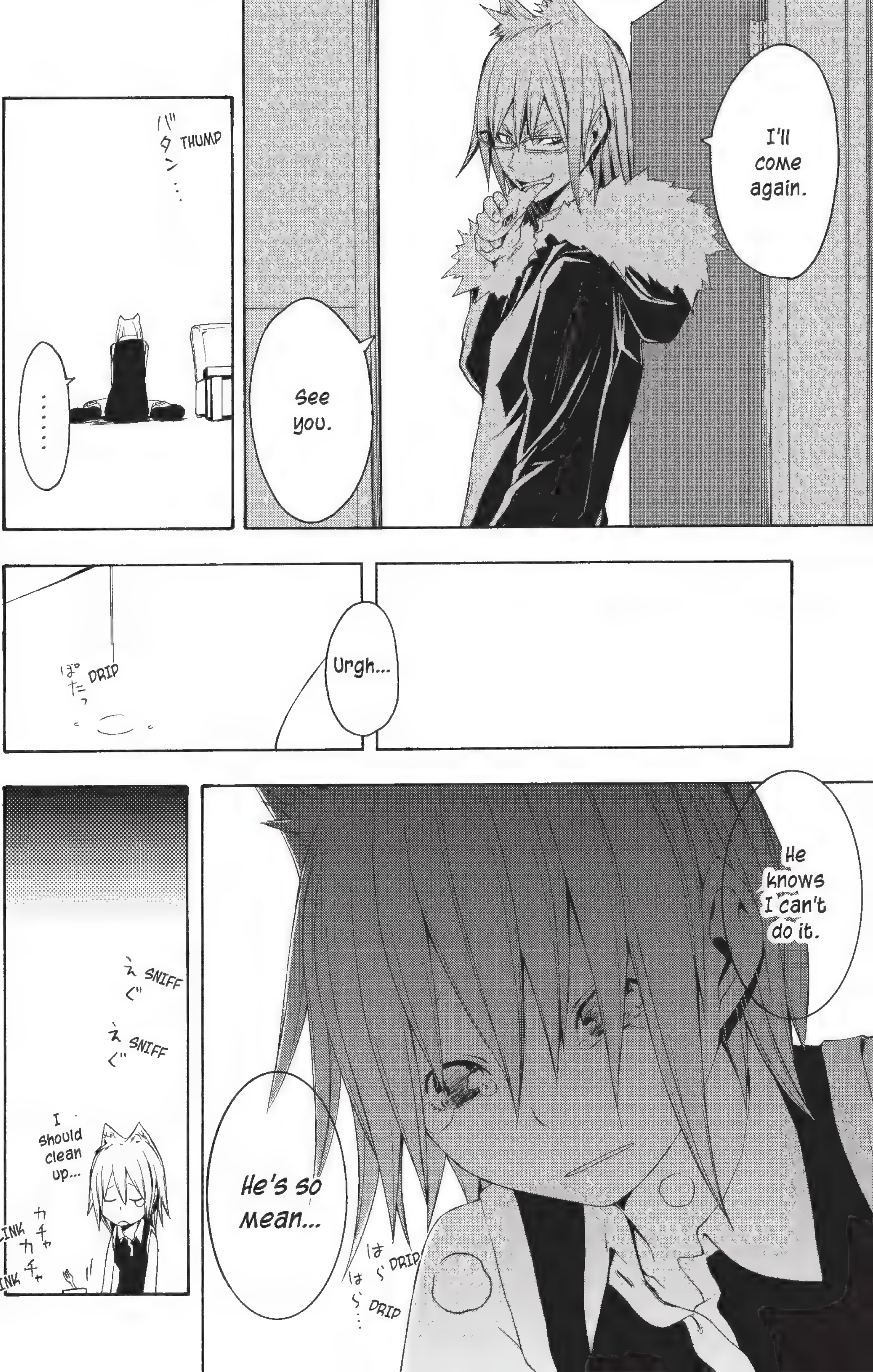

...the way Nii-san...
...cut his cakes.
Huh? Really?
I guess some of his spirit is still left.
KNOCK KNOCK
......
I thought I'd gotten rid of him completely.
KNOCK KNOCK
GRIN
......
CLENCH
If that's the case...
SST

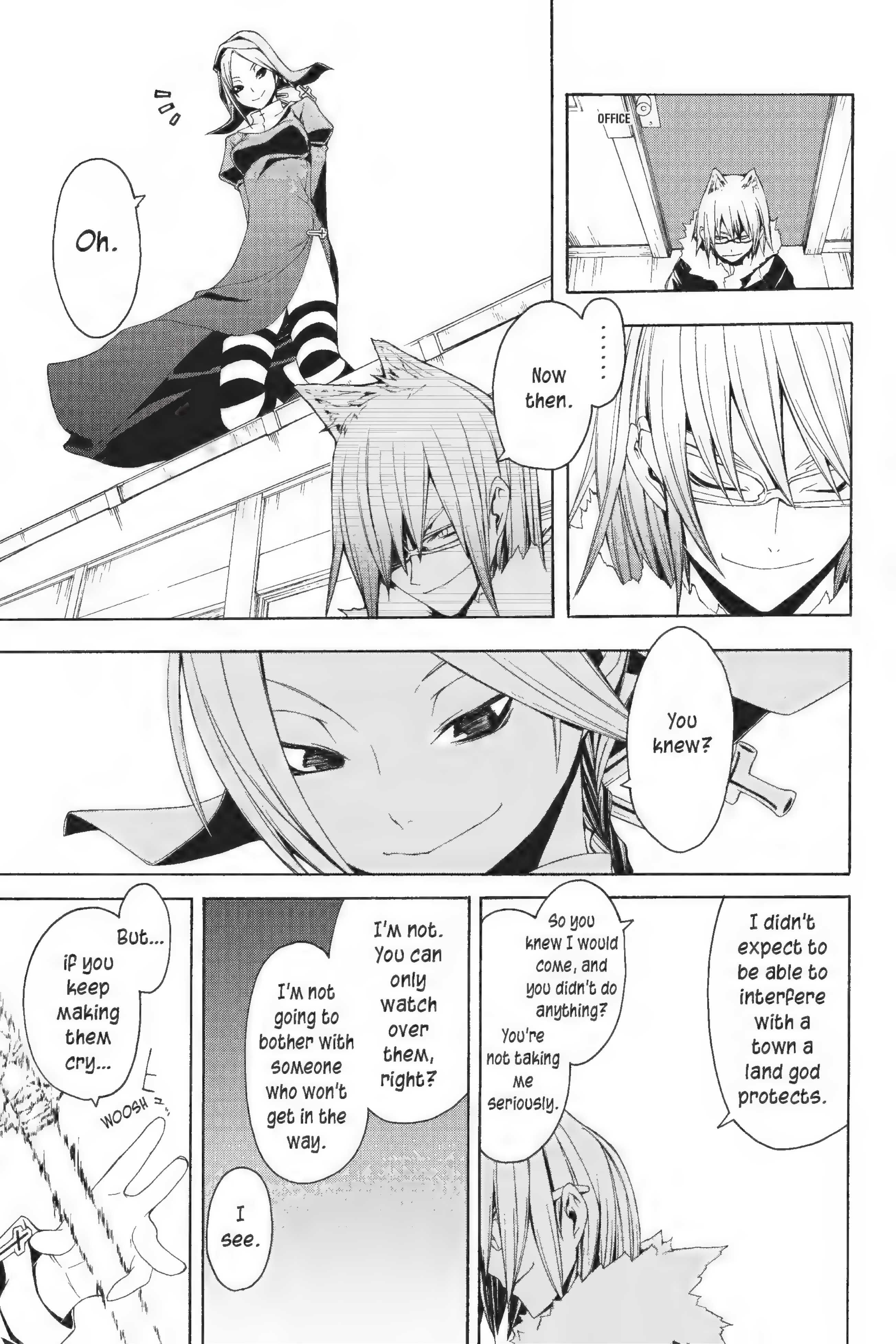

...I should...
...Make sure he's gone...

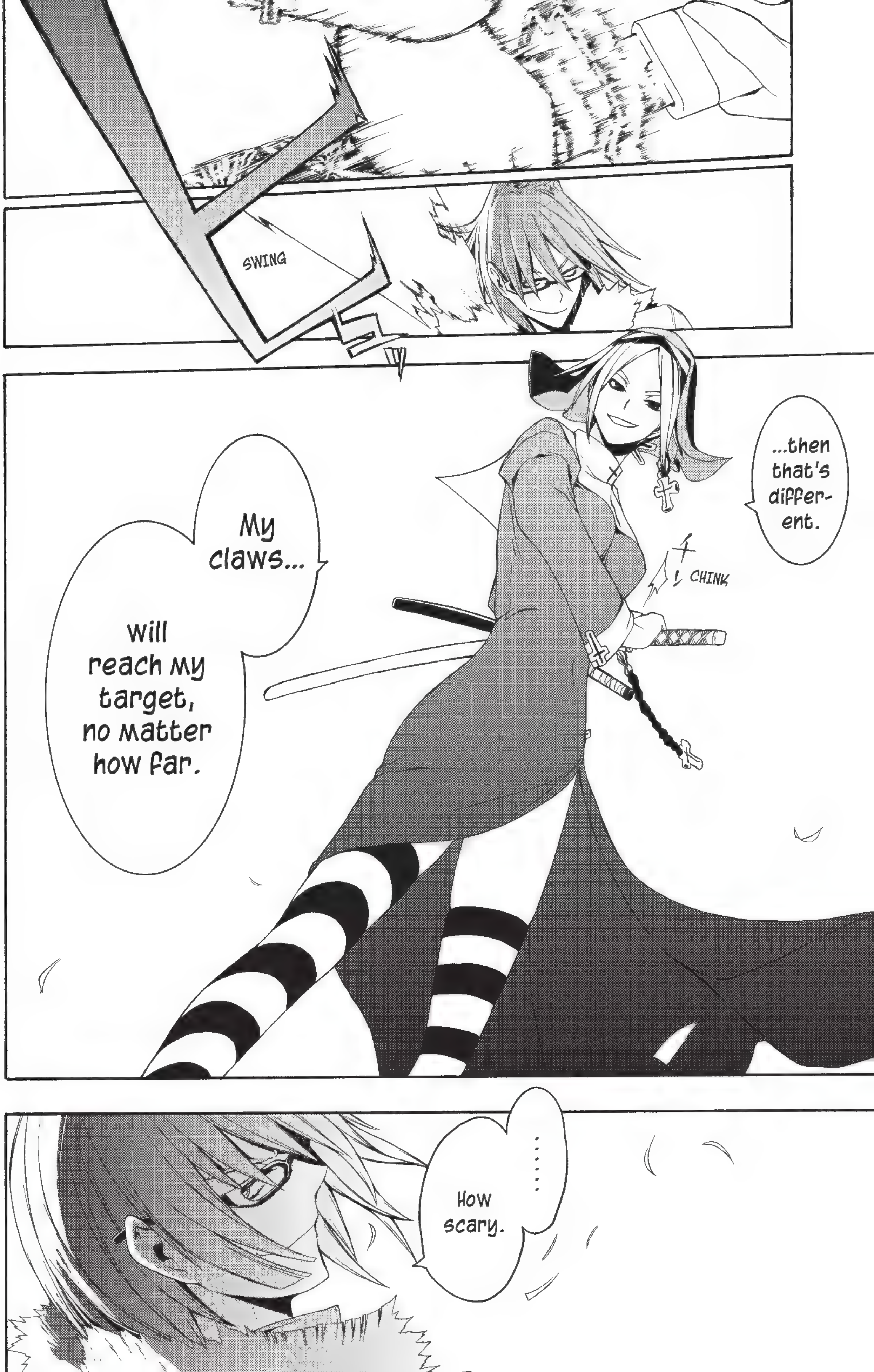

ガッ
GRIP
What's wrong?
Stab me.
Er...

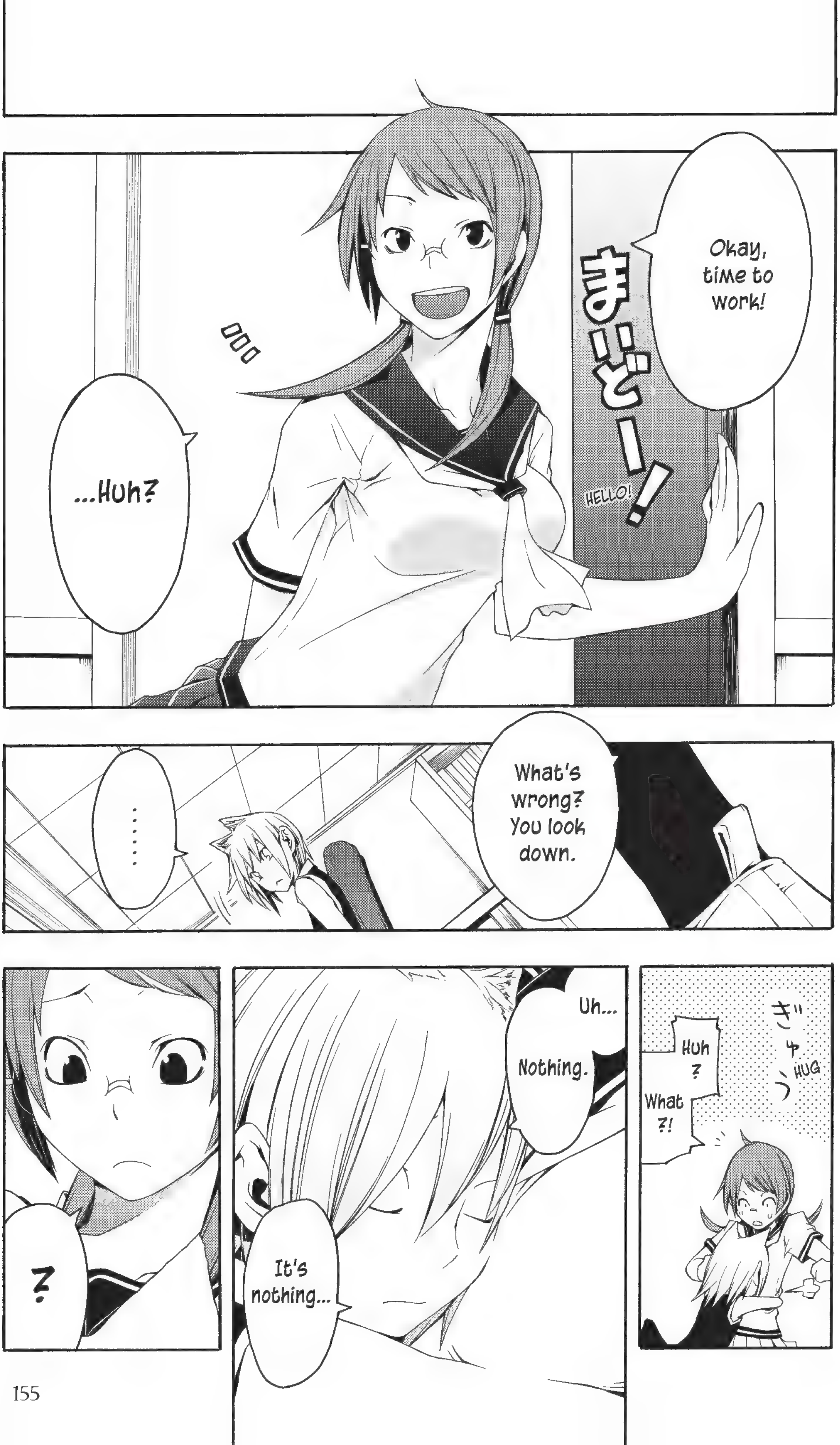

TREMBLE
TREMBLE
If you can't do it...
TWITCH
...maybe I'll take *your* body.
Ugh...
You're a satori, too.

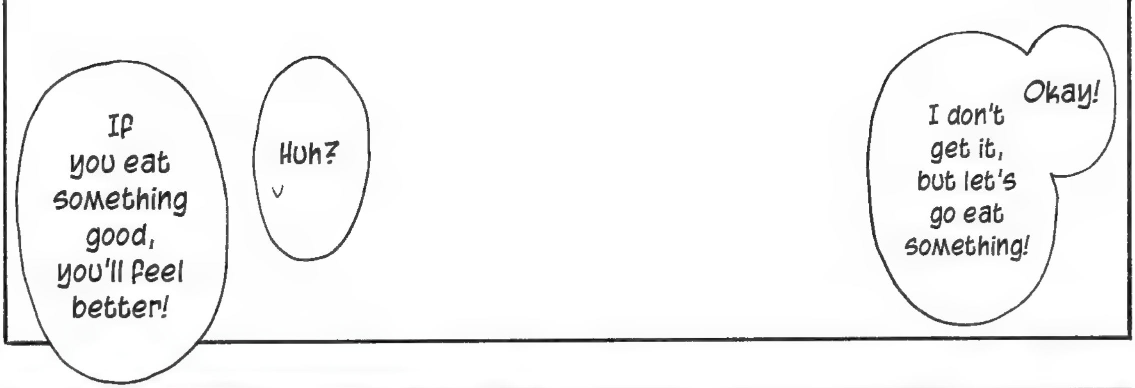

Come on.
Stab me.
Come on!
......
すっ SST
Just kidding.
I didn't come to pick on you.
THUD ど
ROLL ん
OW.
わ
If Hiizumi's not here, then this was a waste of time.
すっ SST

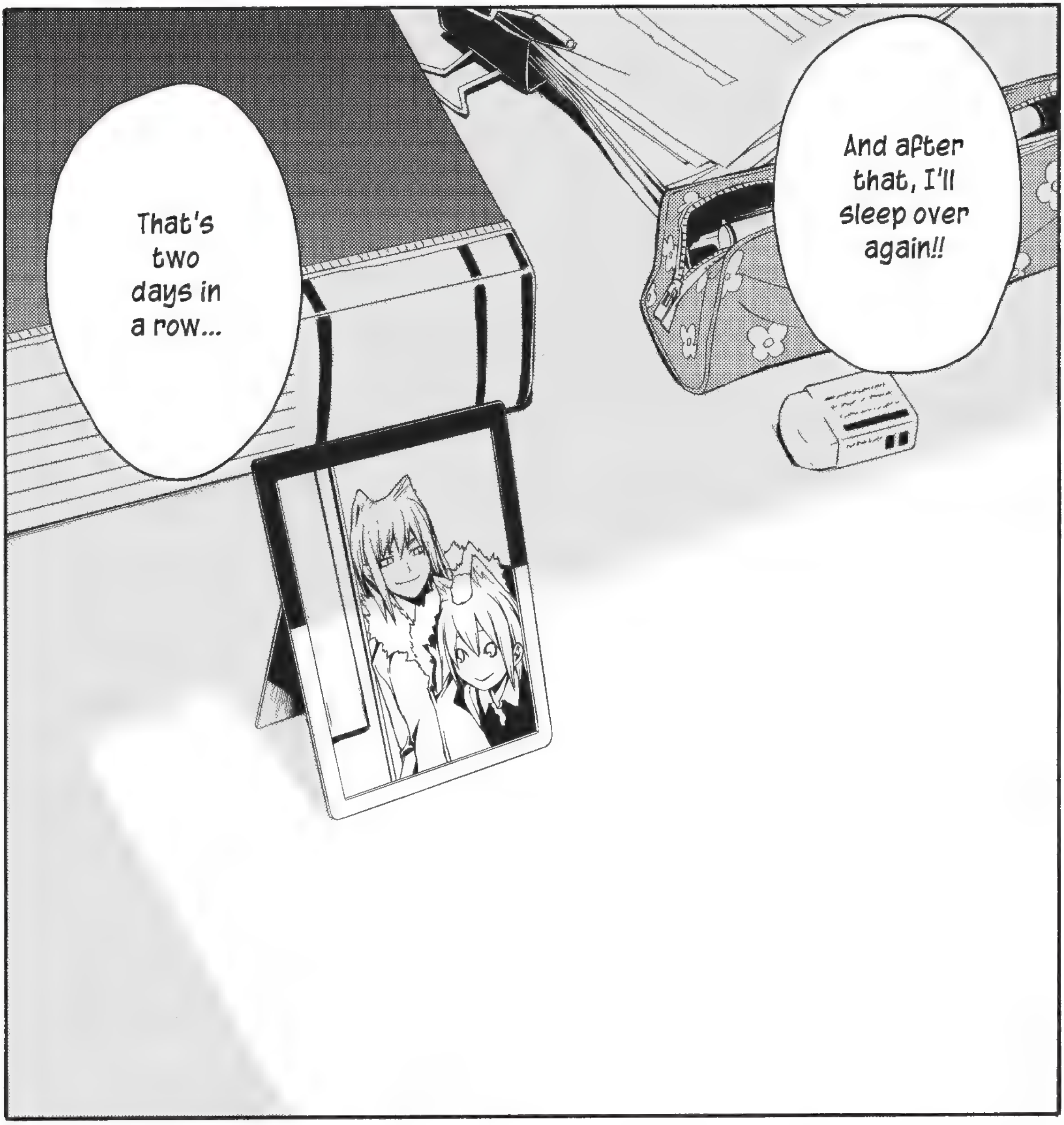

I'll come again.
See you.
バタン… THUMP
……
Urgh...
ぽたっ DRIP
He knows I can't do it.
He's so mean...
はらはら… DRIP DRIP
えぐ SNIFF
えぐ SNIFF
I should clean up...
カチャカチャ CLINK CLINK

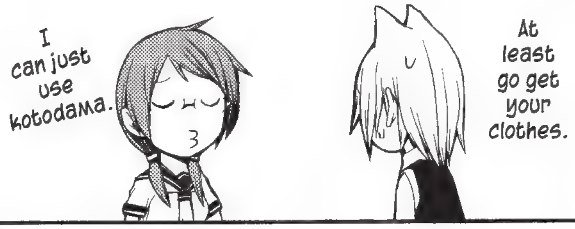

OFFICE
...... Now then.
Oh.
You knew?
I didn't expect to be able to interfere with a town a land god protects.
So you knew I would come, and you didn't do anything?
You're not taking me seriously.
I'm not. You can only watch over them, right?
I'm not going to bother with someone who won't get in the way.
I see.
But... if you keep making them cry...
WOOSH


SWING
...then that's different.
CHINK
My claws...
Will reach my target, no matter how far.
......
How scary.

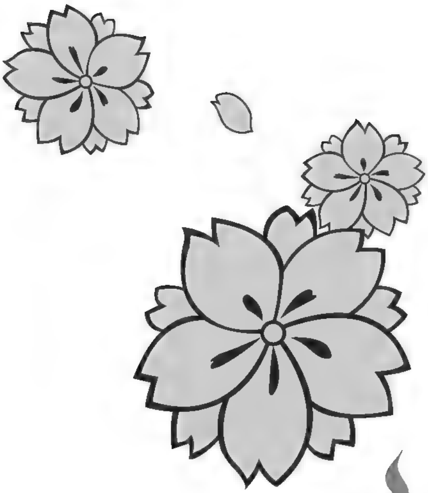

Okay, time to work!
まいどー！
HELLO!
...Huh?
What's wrong? You look down.
......
ぎゅう
HUG
Huh? What?!
Uh...
Nothing.
It's nothing...
?


Okay!
I don't get it, but let's go eat something!
Huh?
If you eat something good, you'll feel better!


And after that, I'll sleep over again!!
That's two days in a row...

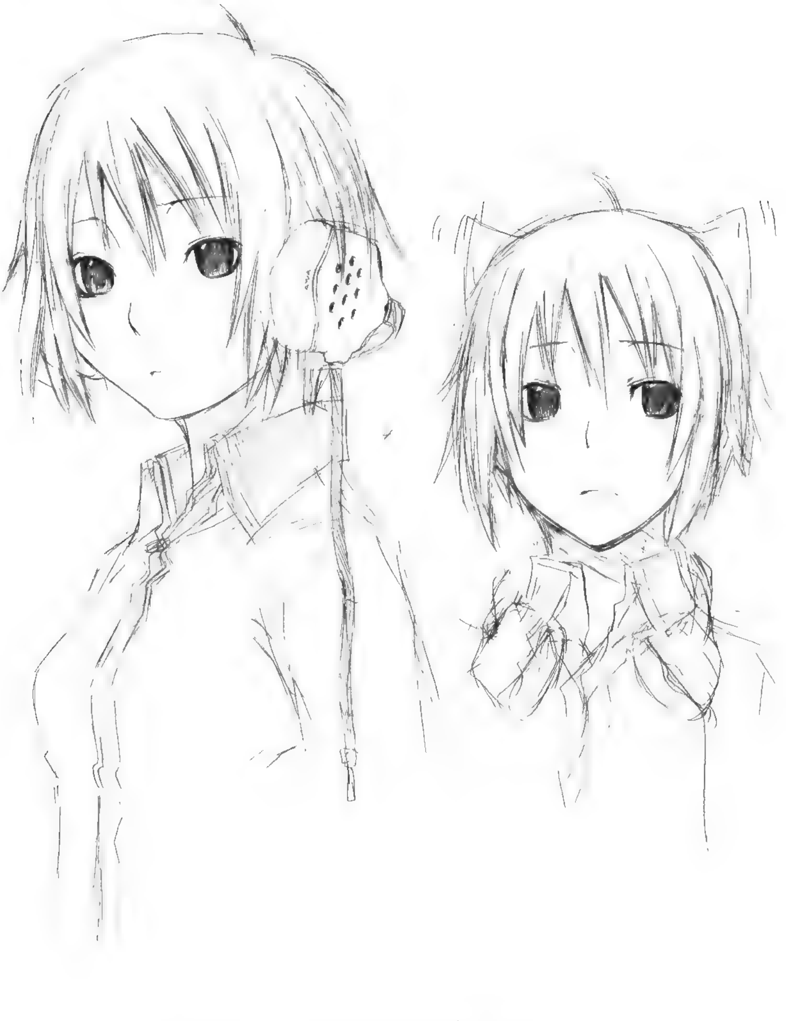

At least go get your clothes.
I can just use kotodama.

21st Night: Hanamizuki (Part 1) END

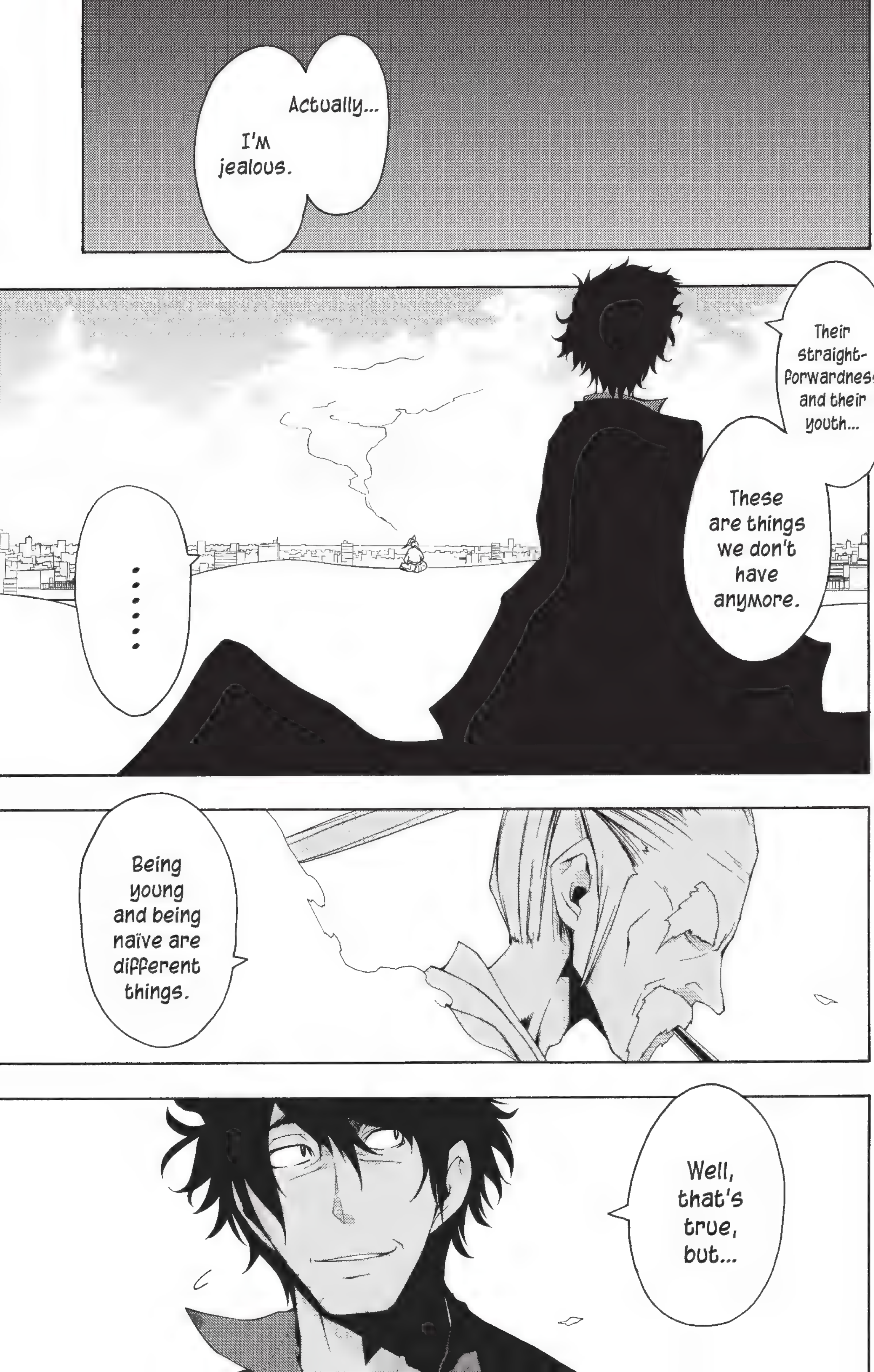


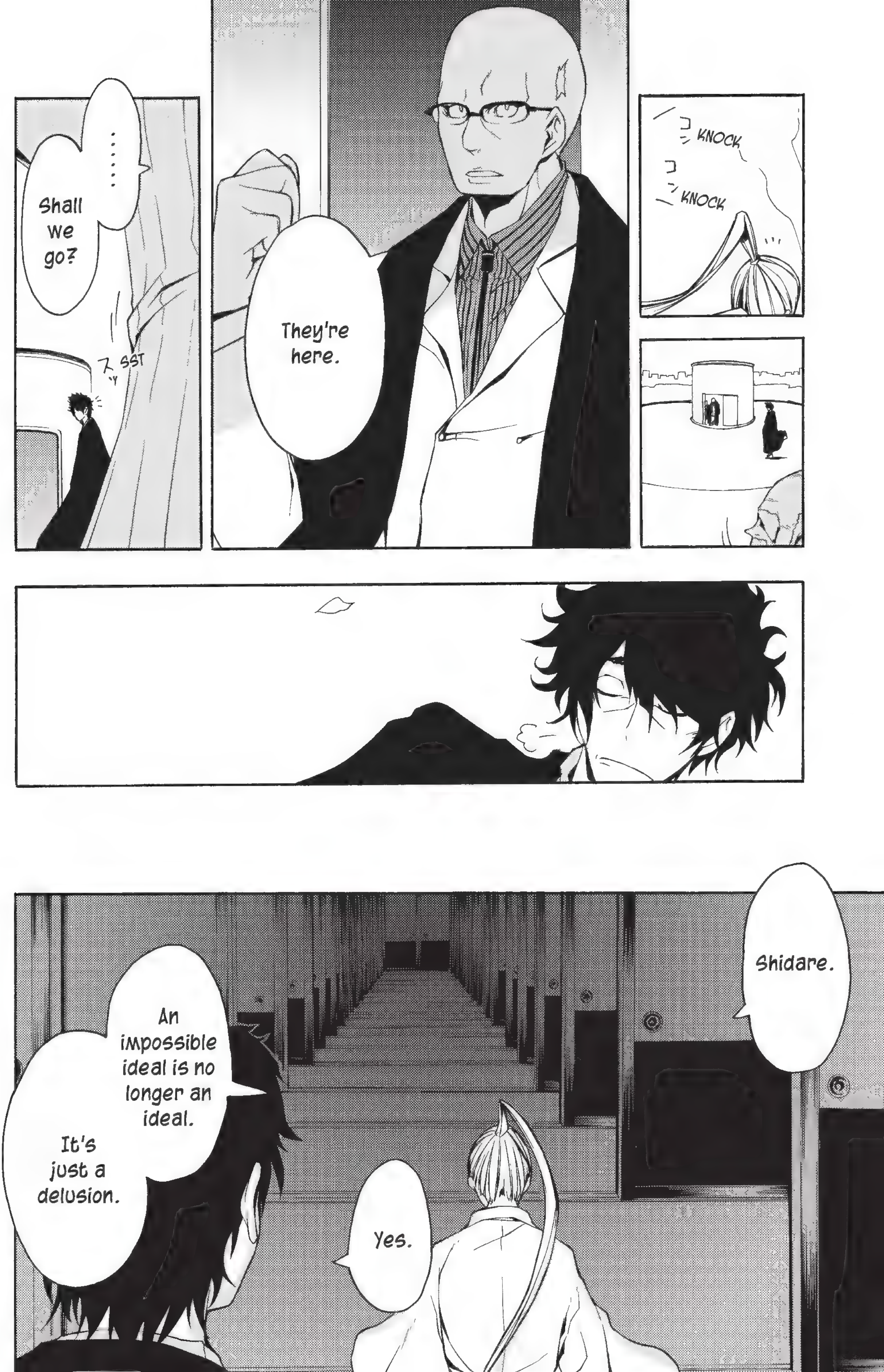
Yozakura Quartet 4

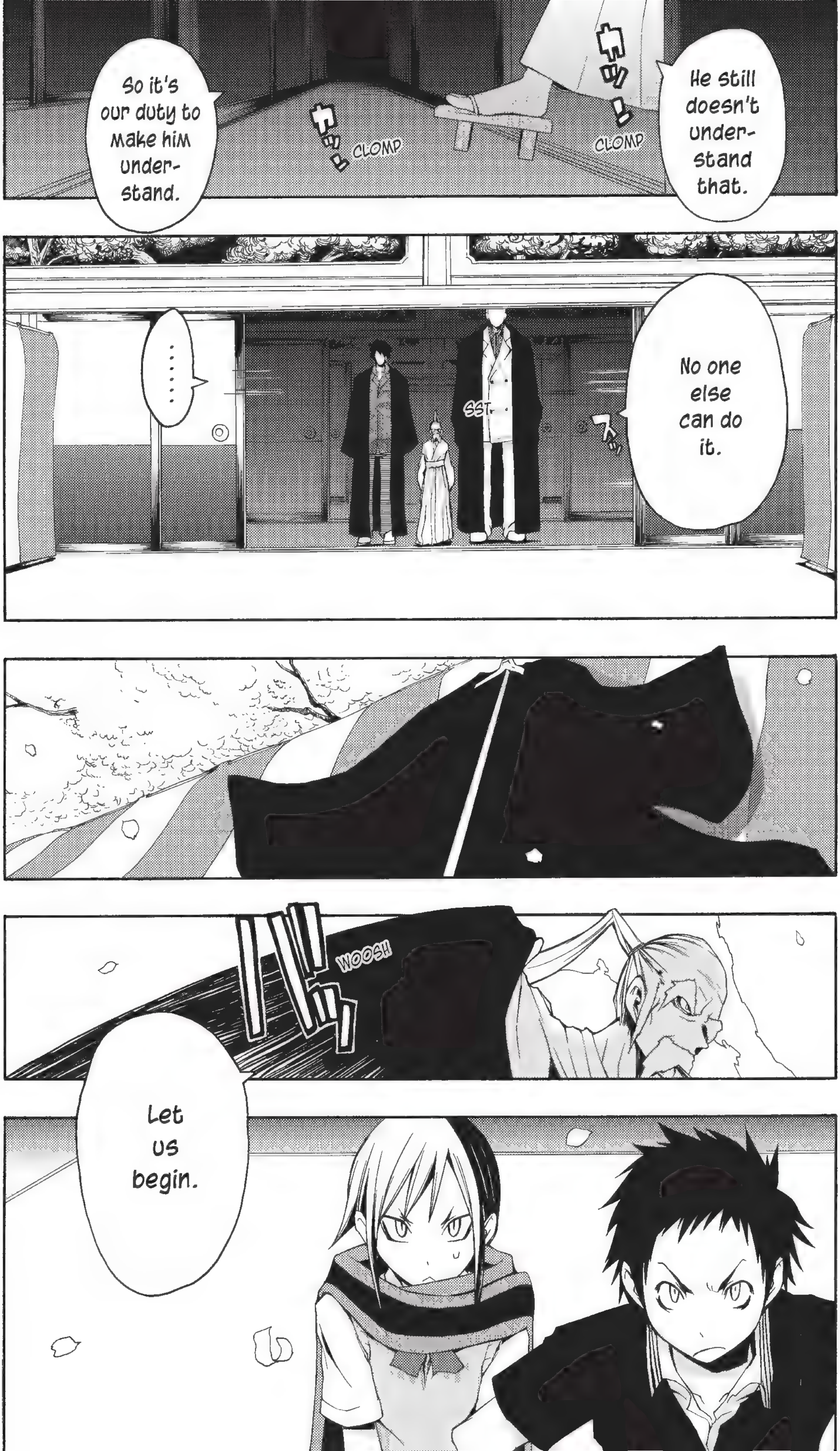
Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet

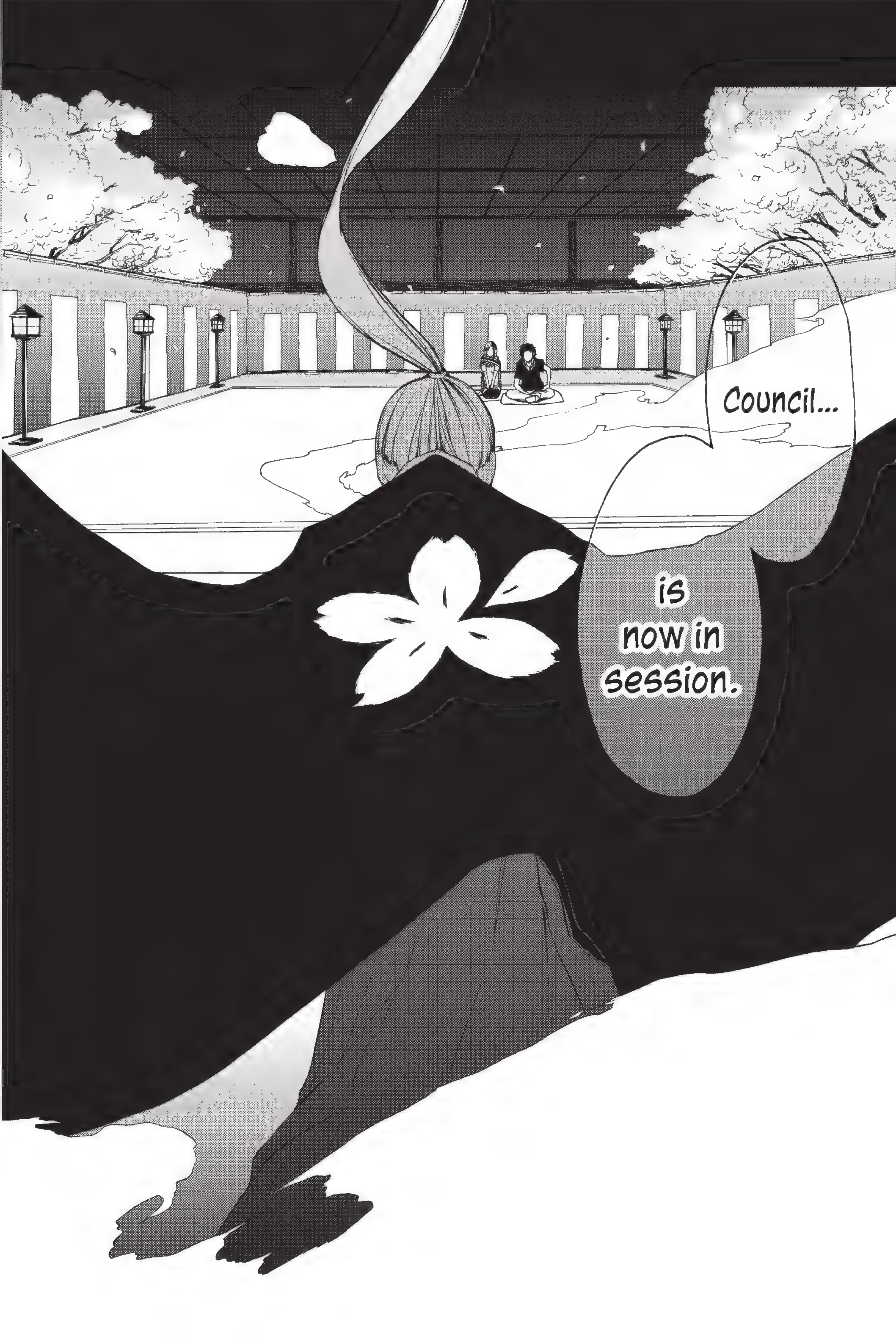


These are the earliest sketches of Ao. It was still a story about music back then.

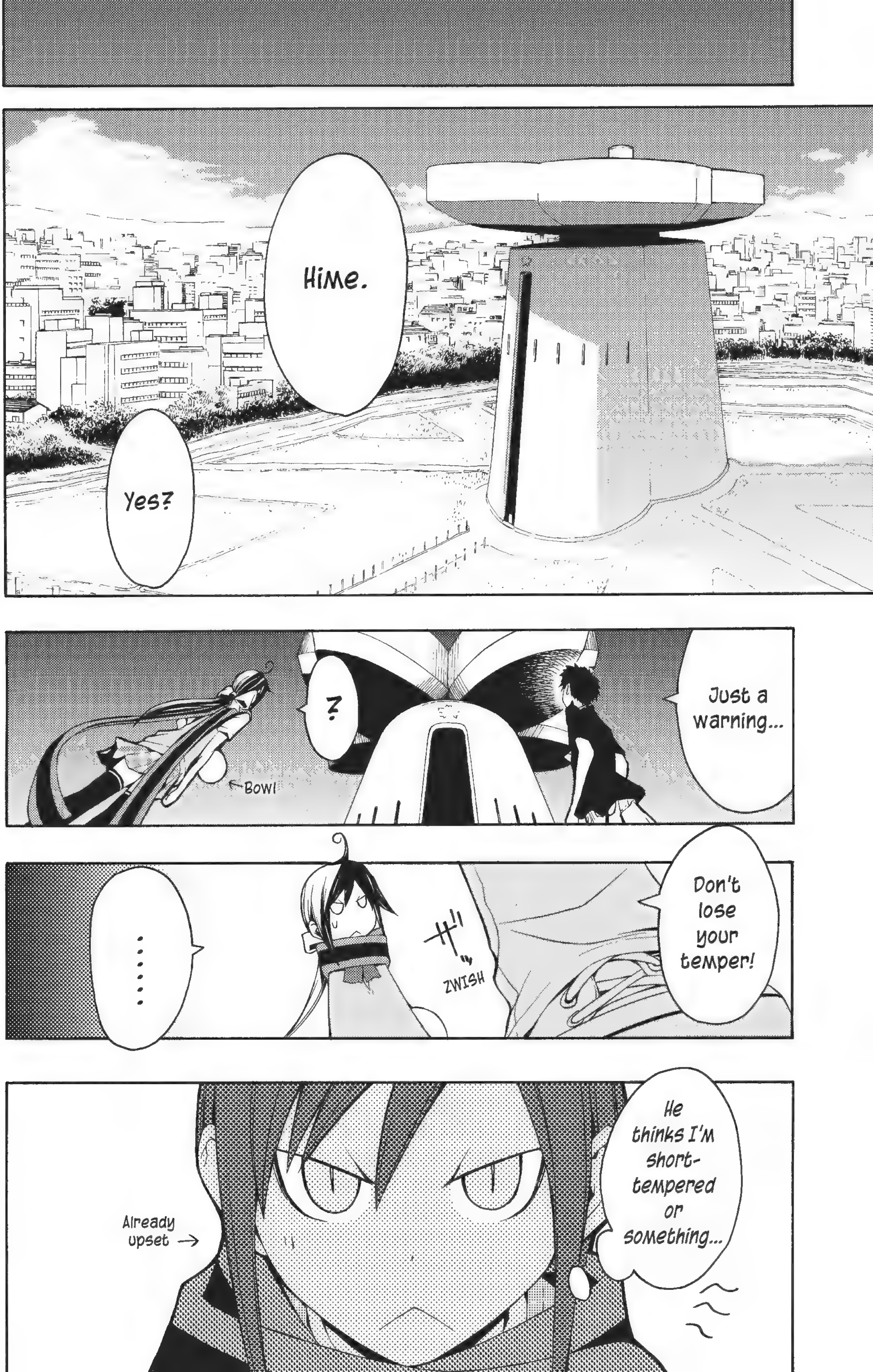

Actually... I'm jealous.
Their straight-forwardness and their youth...
These are things we don't have anymore.
......
Being young and being naïve are different things.
Well, that's true, but...

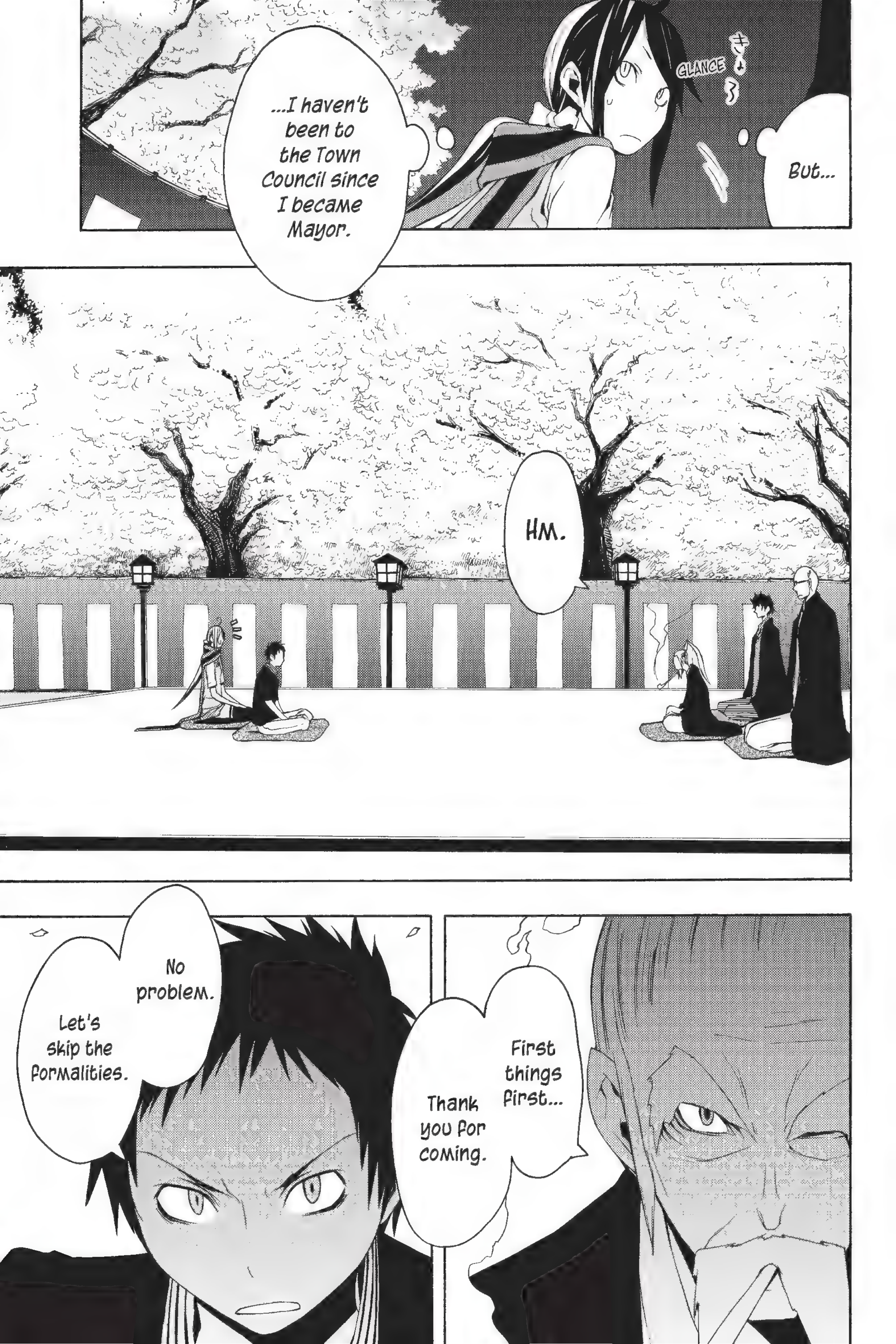

コ KNOCK
コ KNOCK
They're here.
......
Shall we go?
ス ッ SST
Shidare.
Yes.
An impossible ideal is no longer an ideal.
It's just a delusion.

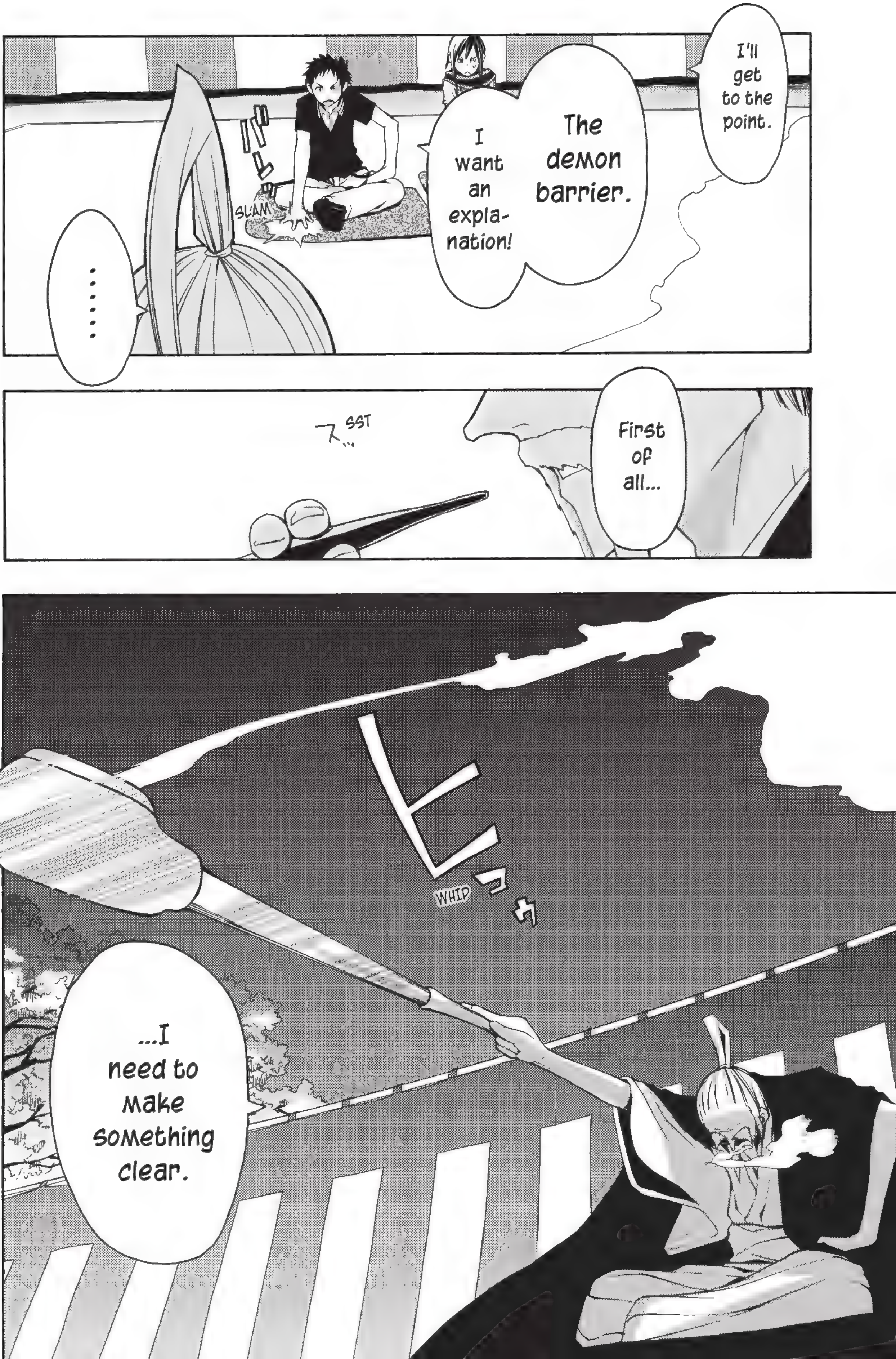

He still doesn't understand that.
CLOMP
CLOMP
So it's our duty to make him understand.
No one else can do it.
SST
......
WOOSH
Let us begin.

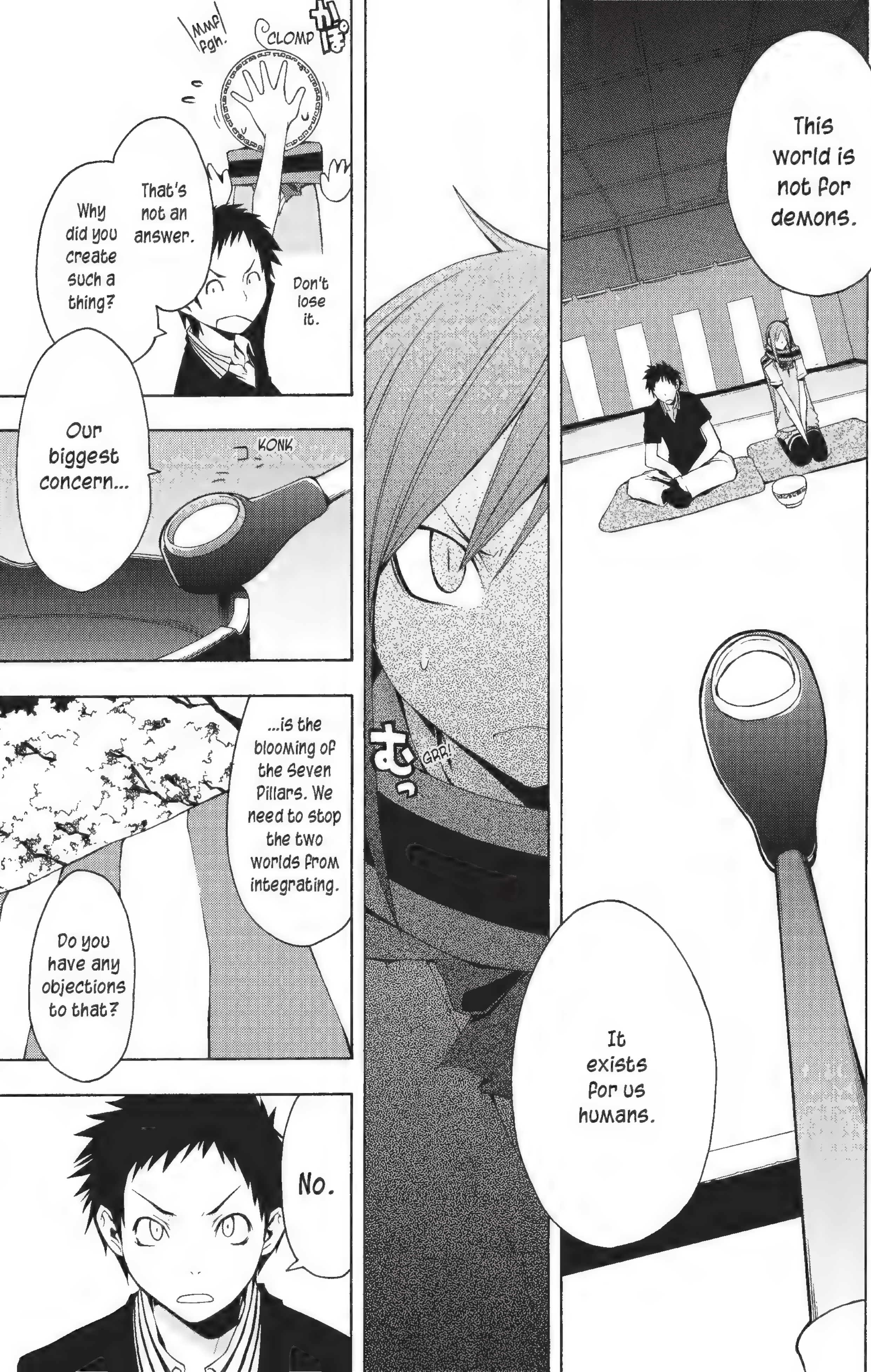

Council...
is now in session.

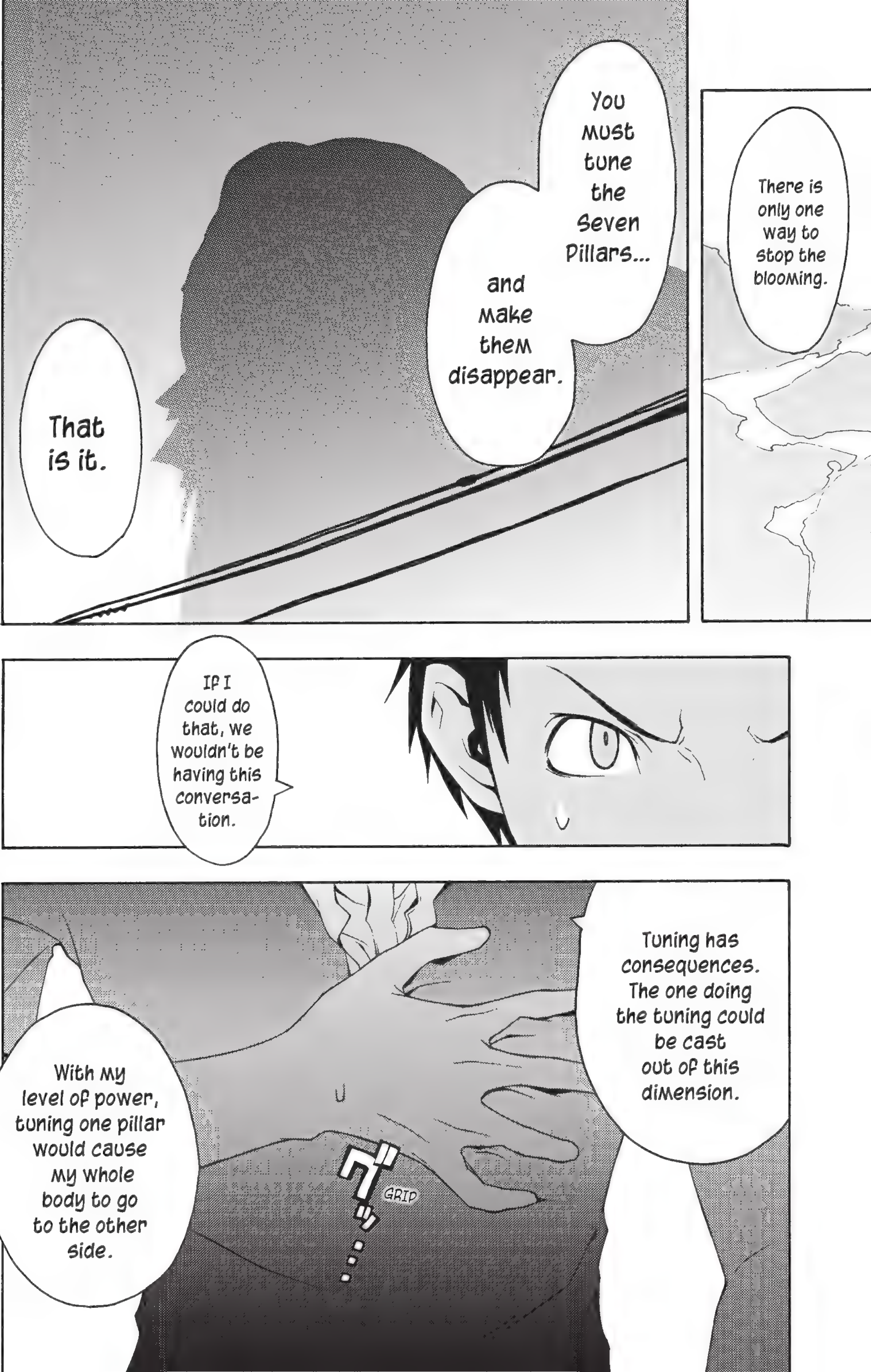
22nd Night: Hanamizuki (Part 2)

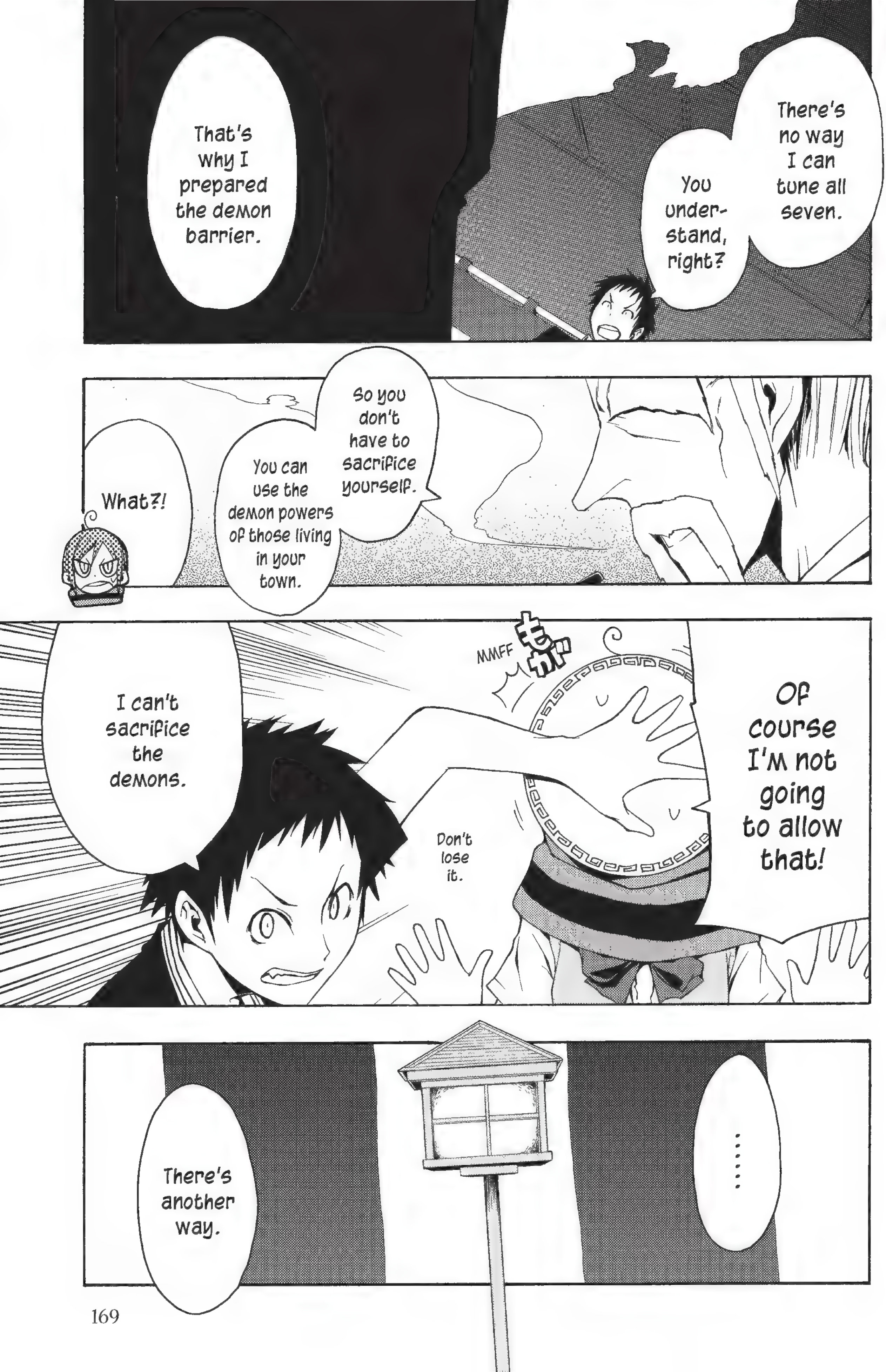

Hime.
Yes?
Just a warning...
?
Bow!
Don't lose your temper!
ZWISH
......
He thinks I'm short-tempered or something...
Already upset

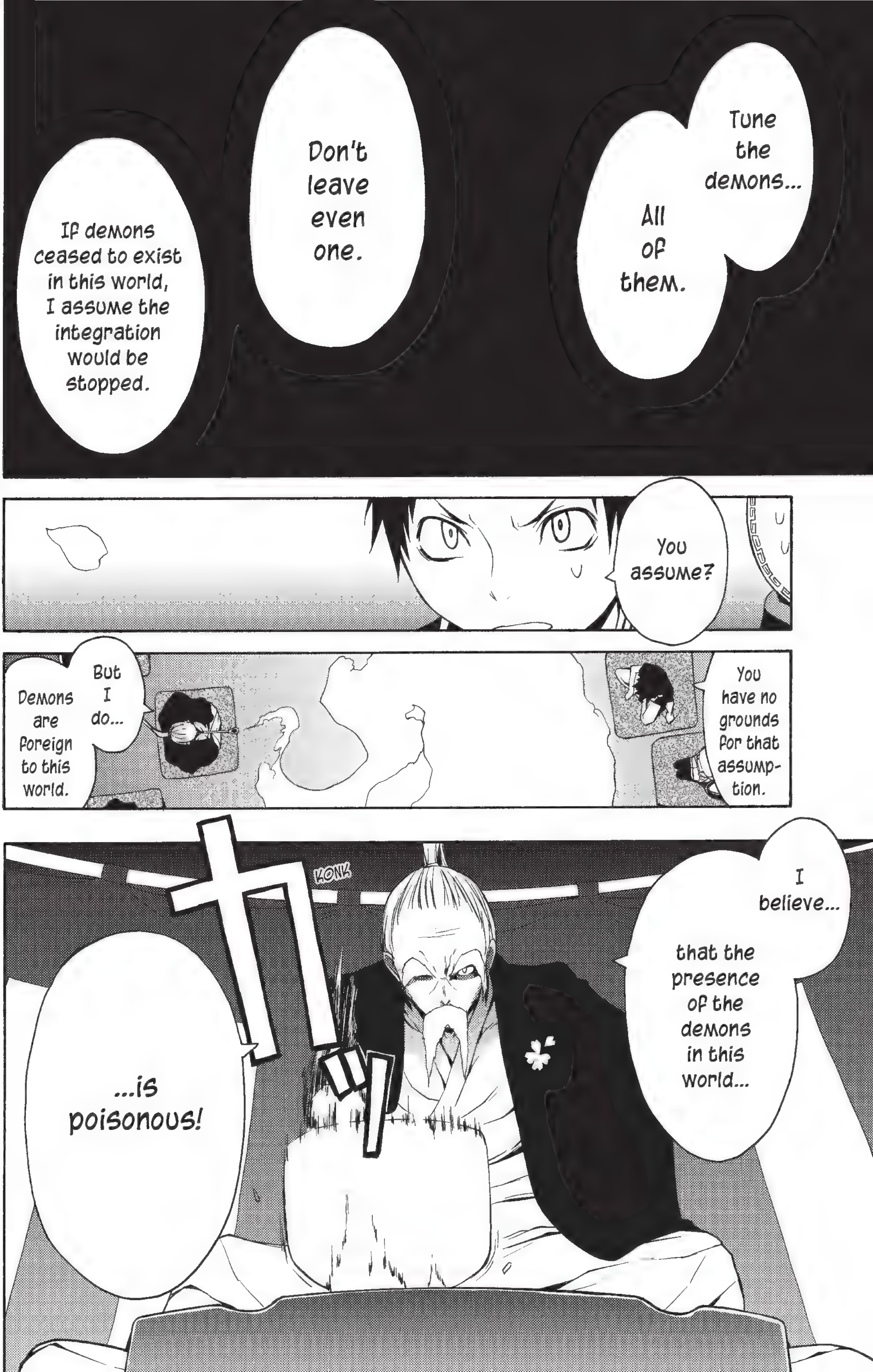

But...
GLANCE
きょろ
...I haven't been to the Town Council since I became Mayor.
HM.
First things first...
Thank you for coming.
No problem.
Let's skip the formalities.

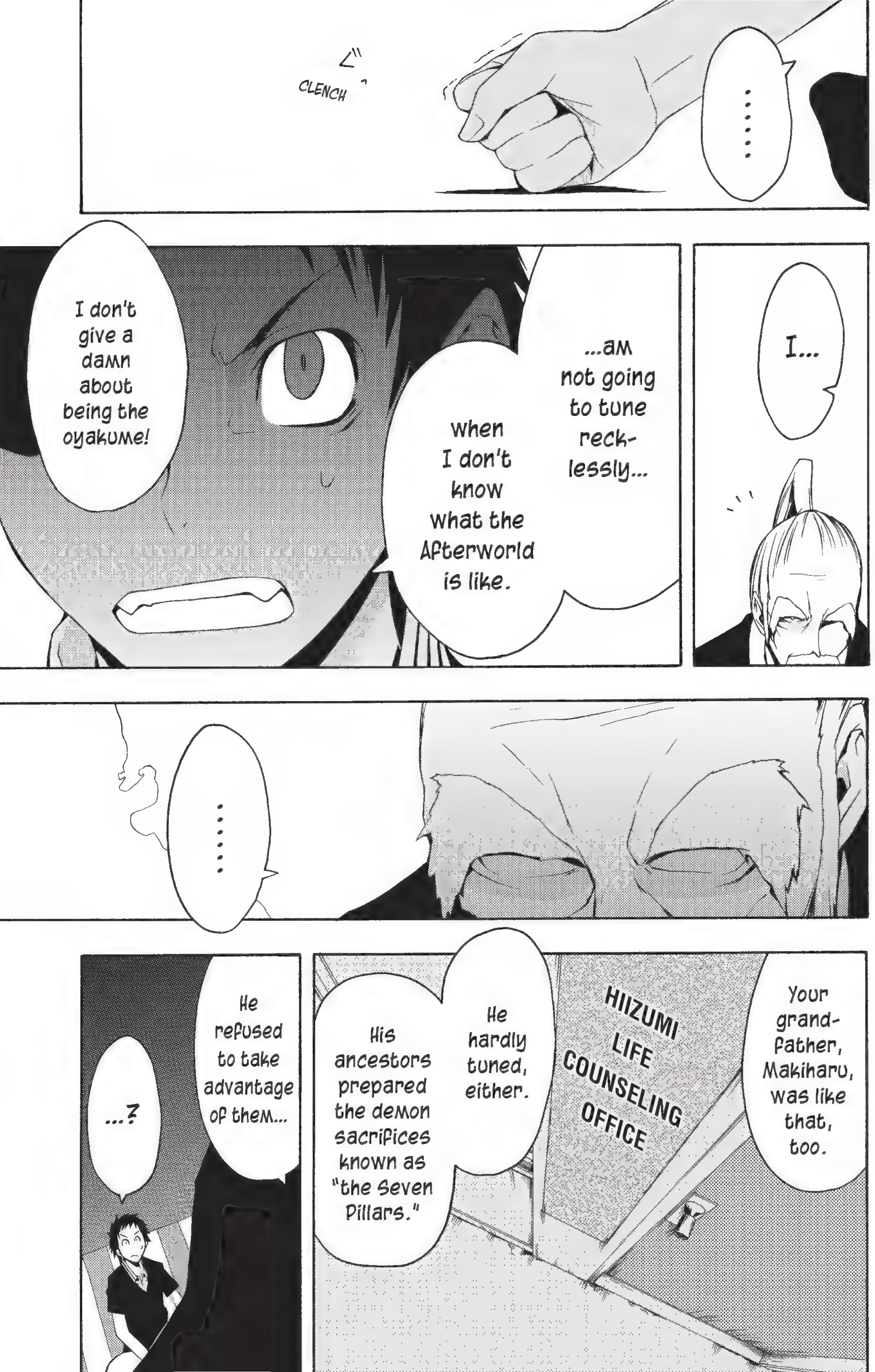

I'll get to the point.
The demon barrier.
I want an explanation!
バン SLAM
……
First of all...
ス SST
ヒュッ WHIP
...I need to make something clear.

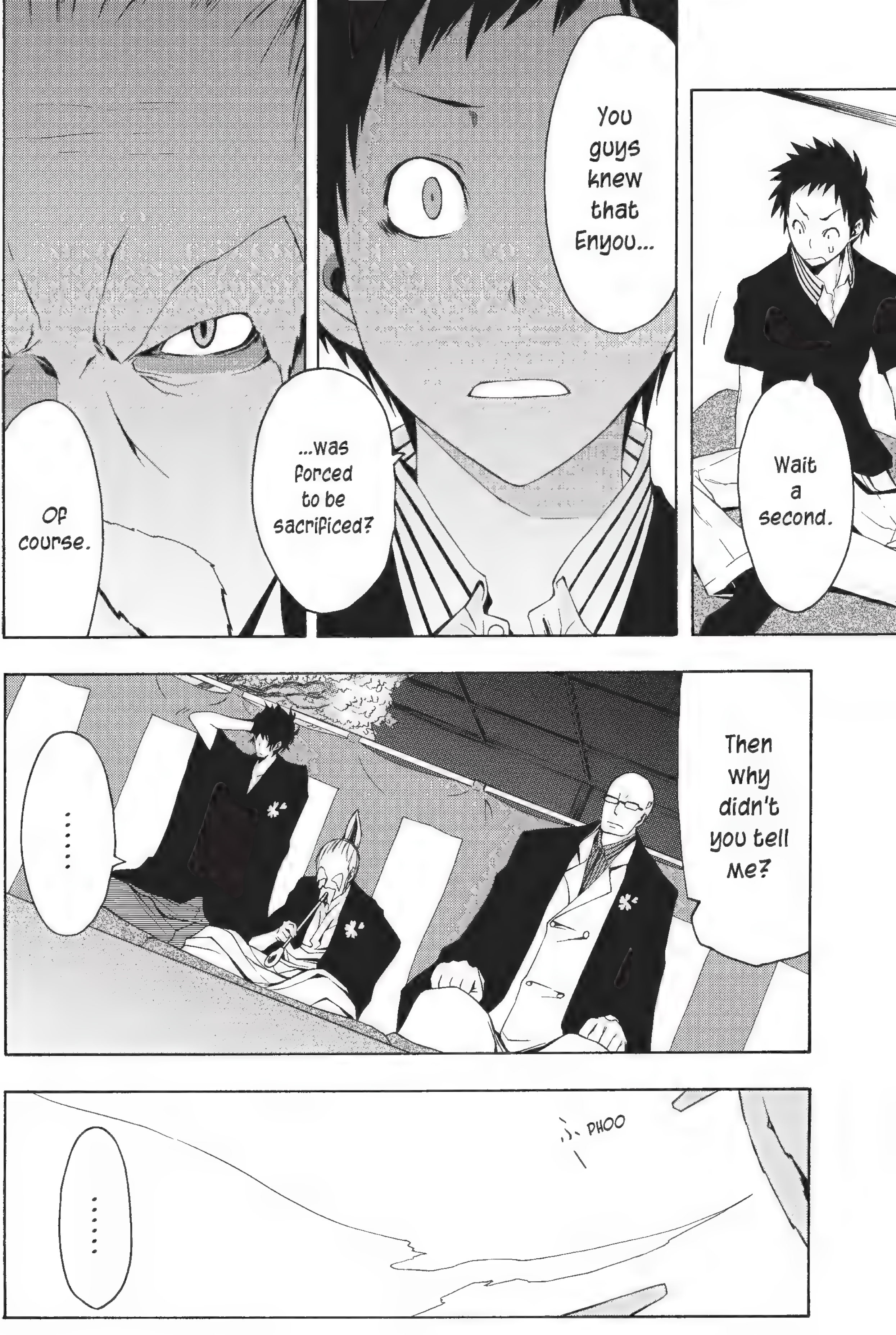

This world is not for demons.
It exists for us humans.
むっ
GRR!
CLOMP
かぽ
MMF fgh.
That's not an answer.
Why did you create such a thing?
Don't lose it.
Our biggest concern...
KONK
...is the blooming of the Seven Pillars. We need to stop the two worlds from integrating.
Do you have any objections to that?
No.

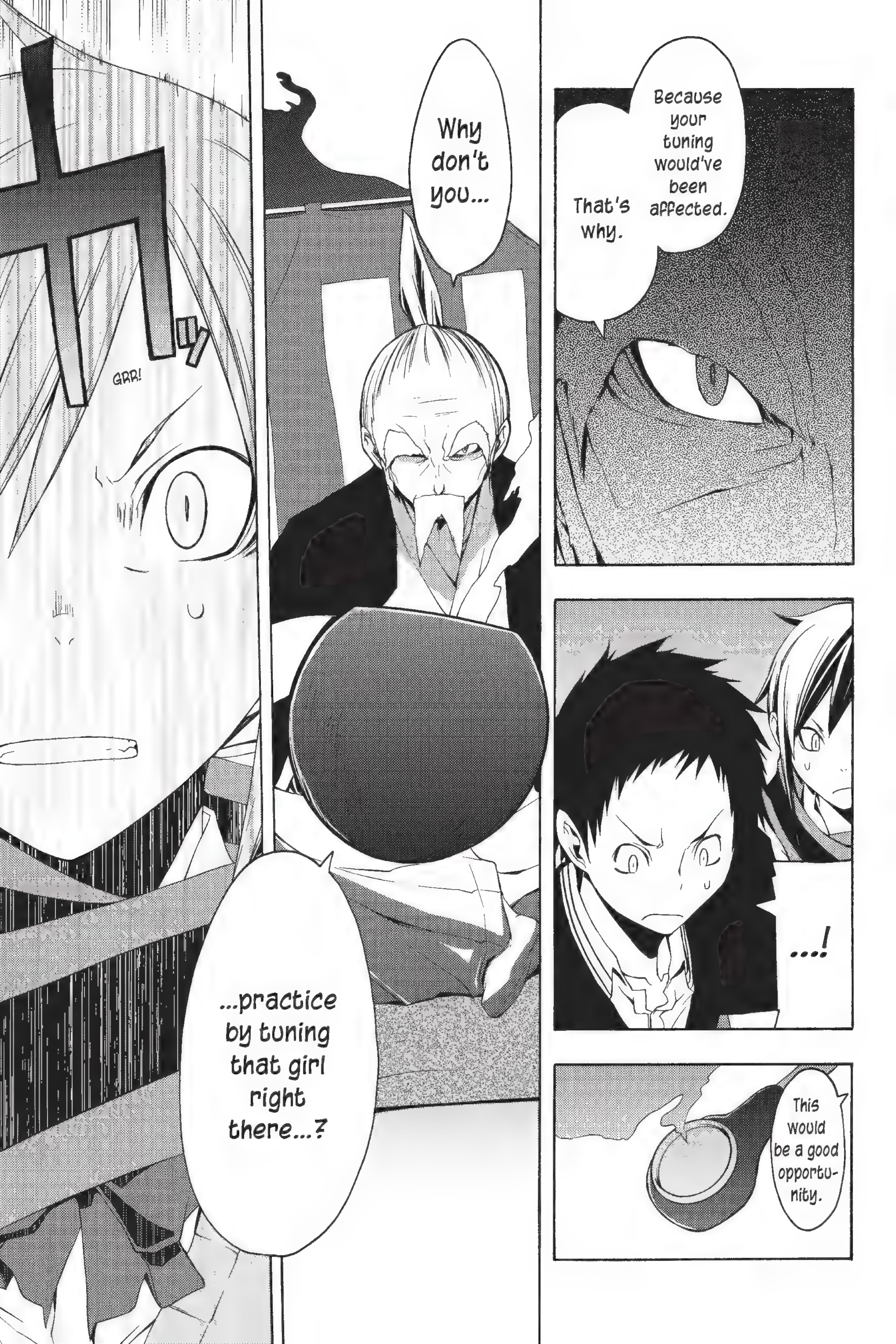

There is only one way to stop the blooming.
You must tune the Seven Pillars...
and make them disappear.
That is it.
If I could do that, we wouldn't be having this conversation.
Tuning has consequences. The one doing the tuning could be cast out of this dimension.
グッ…
GRIP
With my level of power, tuning one pillar would cause my whole body to go to the other side.

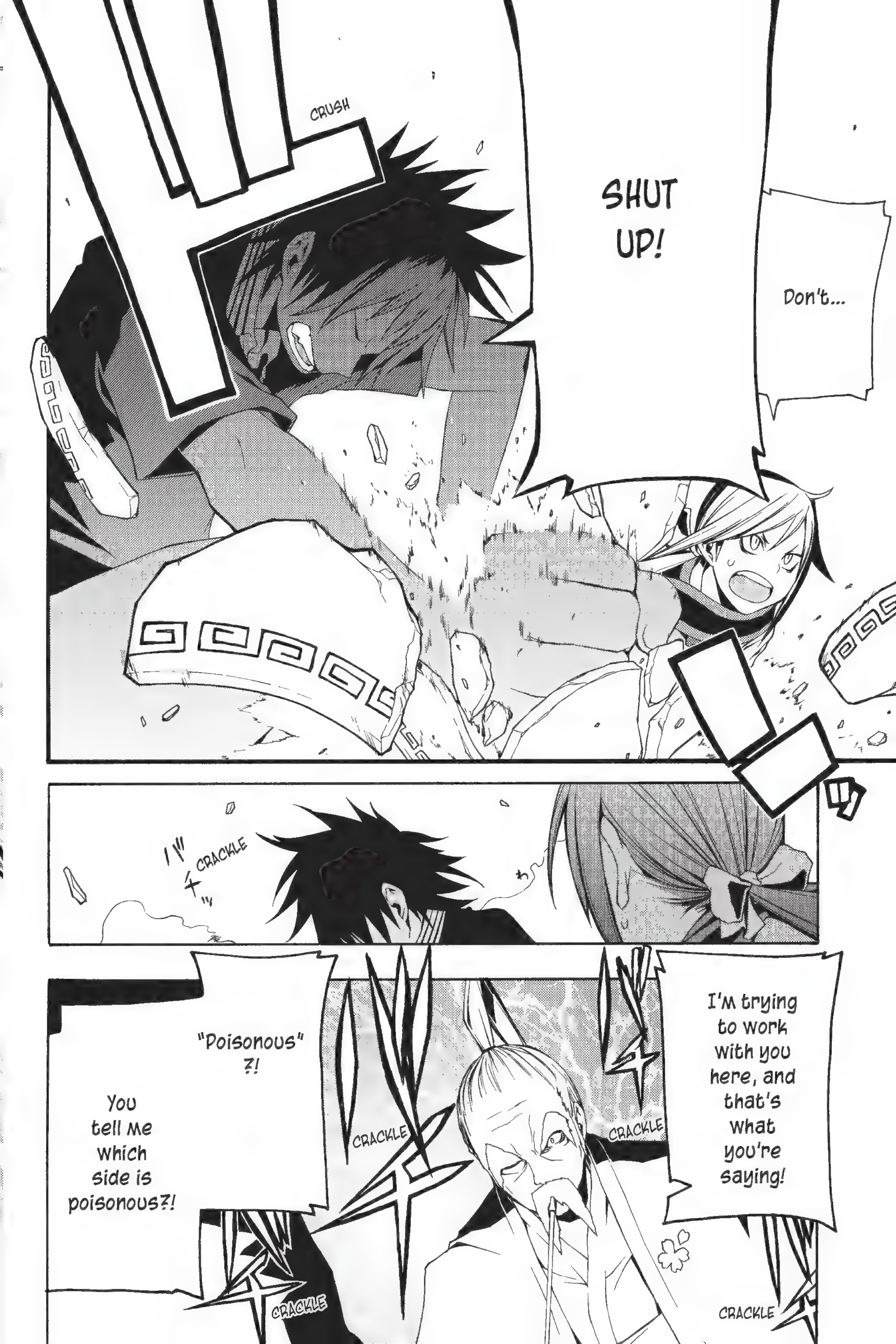

There's no way I can tune all seven.
You understand, right?
That's why I prepared the demon barrier.
So you don't have to sacrifice yourself.
You can use the demon powers of those living in your town.
What?!
Of course I'm not going to allow that!
MMFF
もが
Don't lose it.
I can't sacrifice the demons.
……
There's another way.

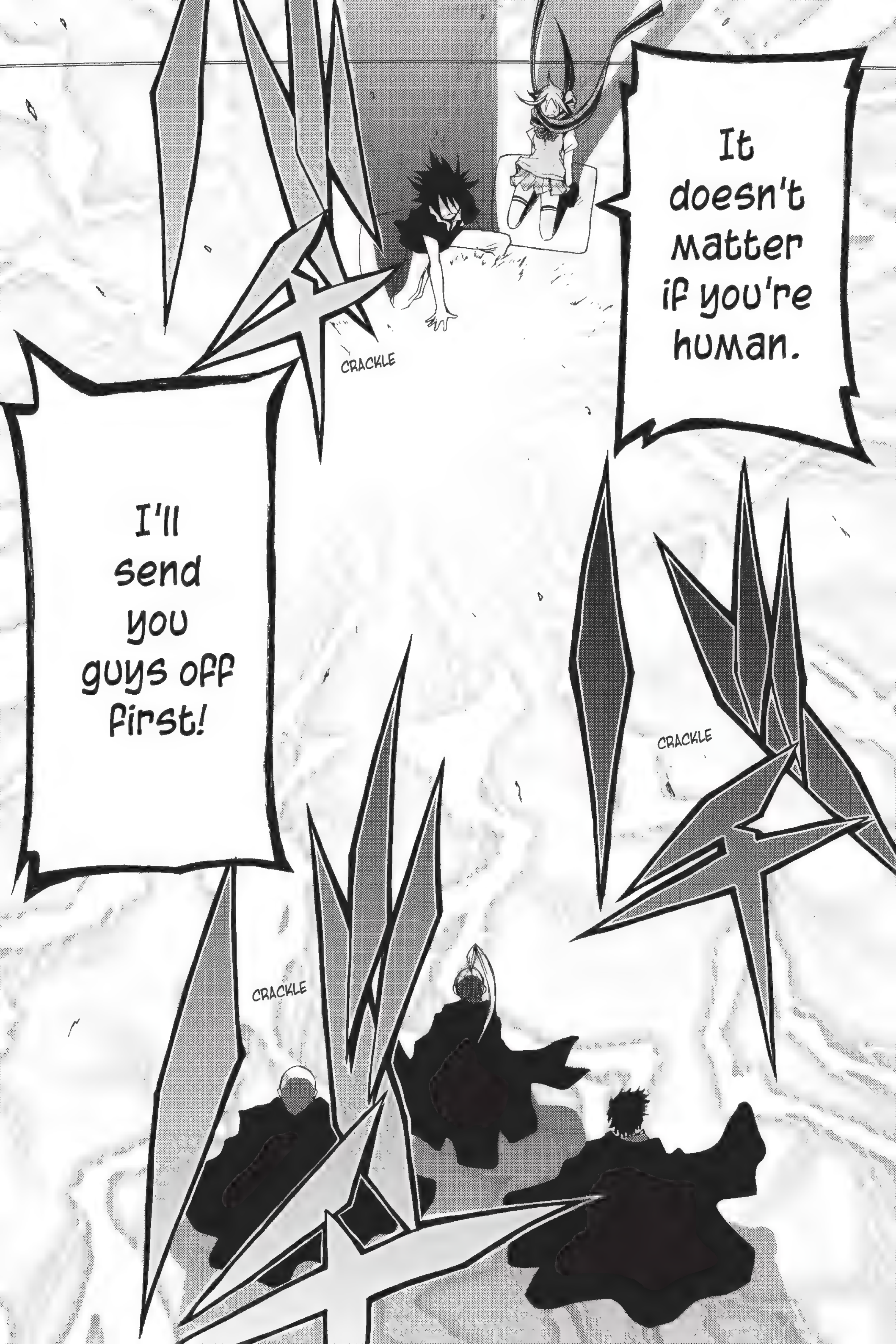

Tune the demons...
All of them.
Don't leave even one.
If demons ceased to exist in this world, I assume the integration would be stopped.
You assume?
You have no grounds for that assumption.
But I do...
Demons are foreign to this world.
KONK
I believe...
that the presence of the demons in this world...
...is poisonous!

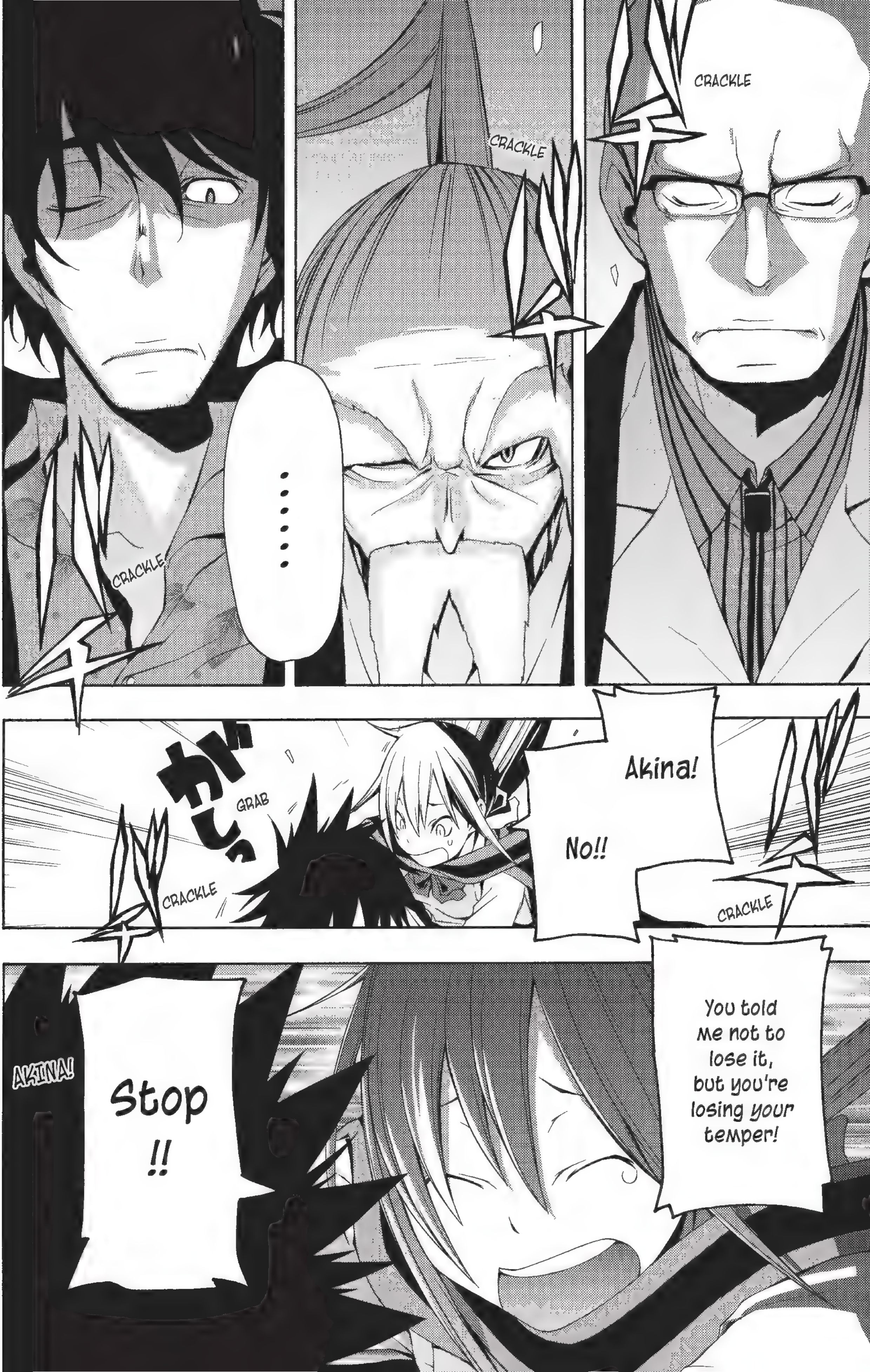

CLENCH
......
I...
...am not going to tune recklessly...
when I don't know what the Afterworld is like.
I don't give a damn about being the oyakume!
......
Your grandfather, Makiharu, was like that, too.
HIIZUMI LIFE COUNSELING OFFICE
He hardly tuned, either.
His ancestors prepared the demon sacrifices known as "the Seven Pillars."
He refused to take advantage of them...
...?

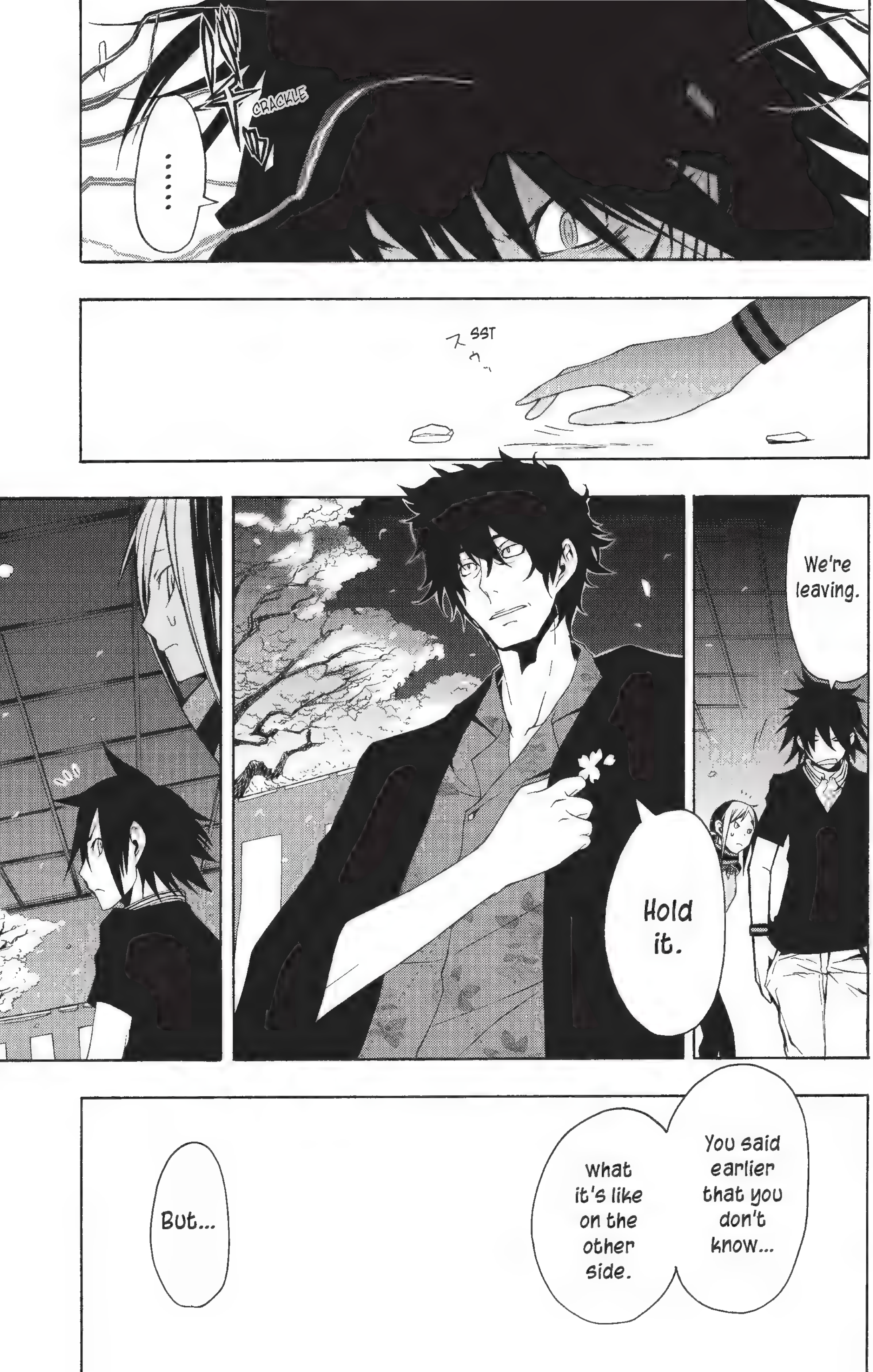

Wait a second.
You guys knew that Enyou...
...was forced to be sacrificed?
Of course.
Then why didn't you tell me?
......
ふ、PHOO
......

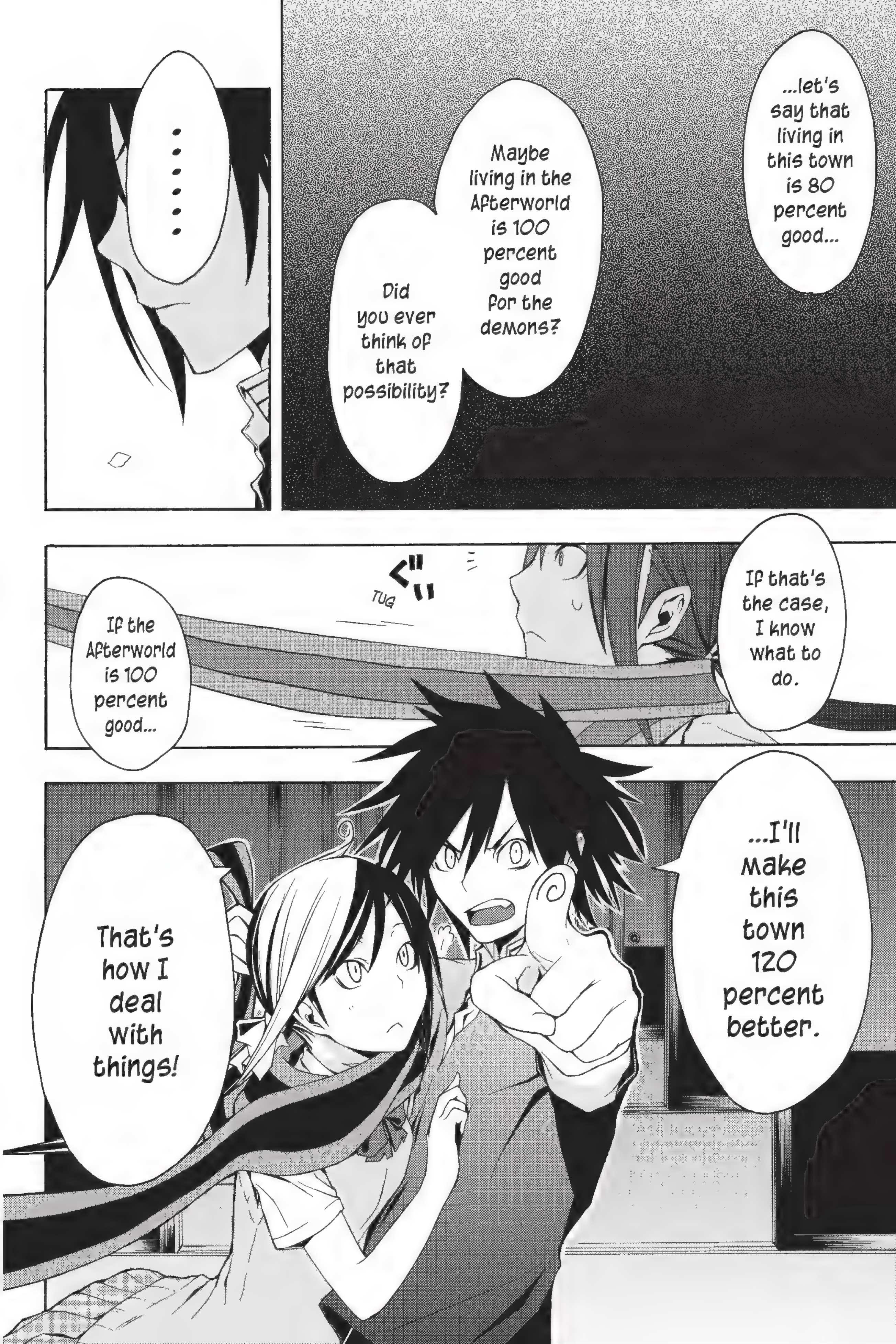

Because your tuning would've been affected.
That's why.
...!
This would be a good opportu-nity.
Why don't you...
...practice by tuning that girl right there...?
GRR!

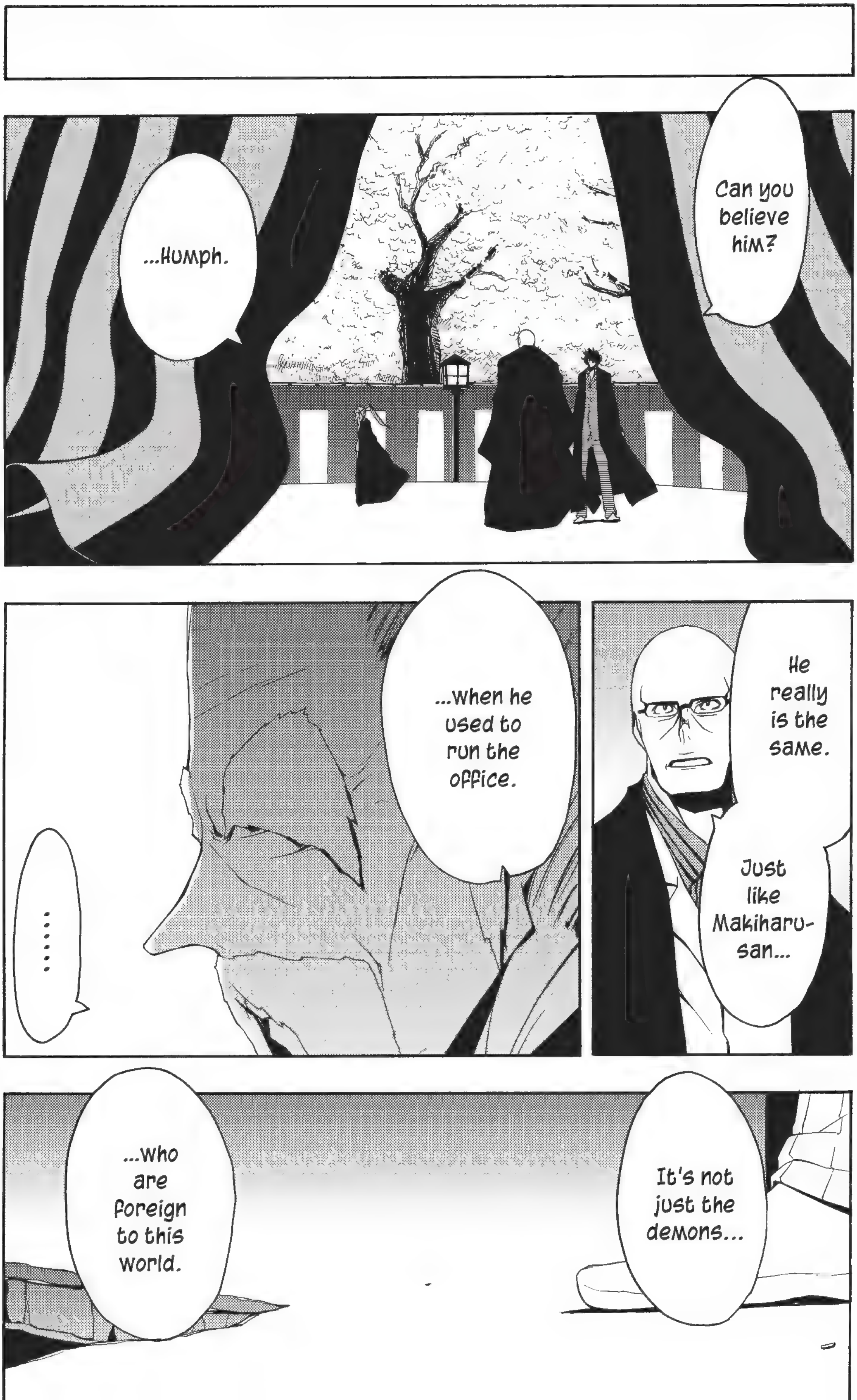

Don't...
SHUT UP!
CRUSH
CRACKLE
I'm trying to work with you here, and that's what you're saying!
"Poisonous" ?!
You tell me which side is poisonous?!
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE

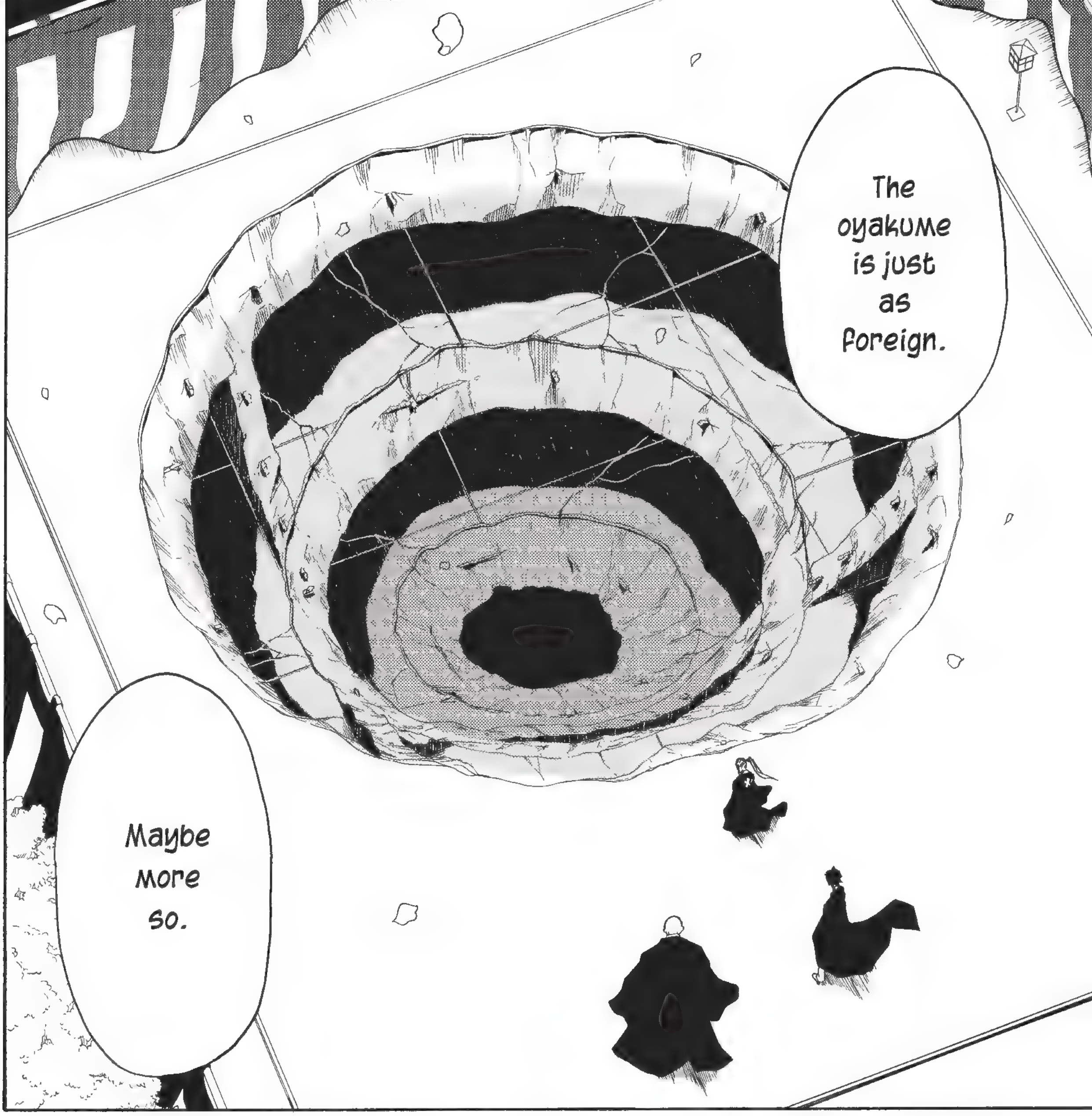

It doesn't matter if you're human.
CRACKLE
I'll send you guys off first!
CRACKLE
CRACKLE

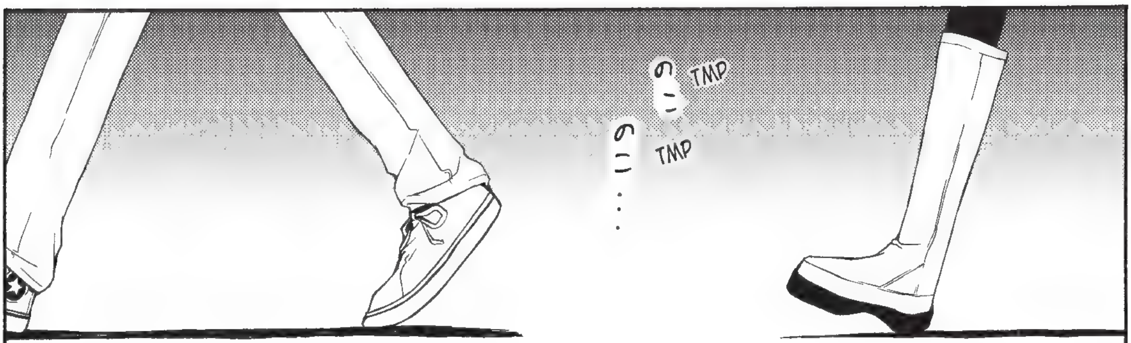

CRACKLE
CRACKLE
……
CRACKLE
Akina!
No!!
CRACKLE
がしっ
GRAB
CRACKLE
You told me not to lose it, but you're losing your temper!
Stop!!
AKINA!

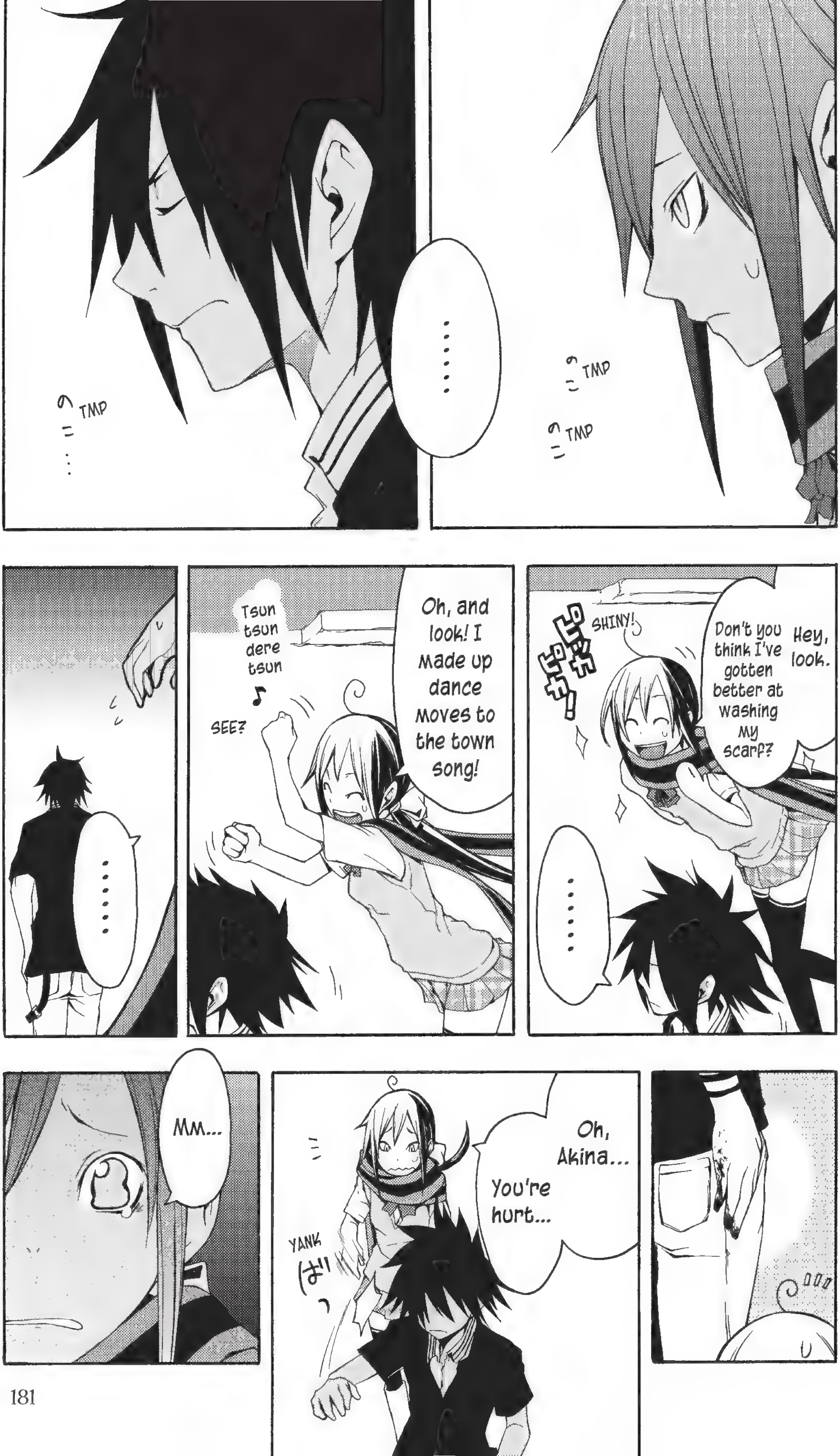

CRACKLE
......
SST
スゥ…
We're leaving.
Hold it.
You said earlier that you don't know...
what it's like on the other side.
But...

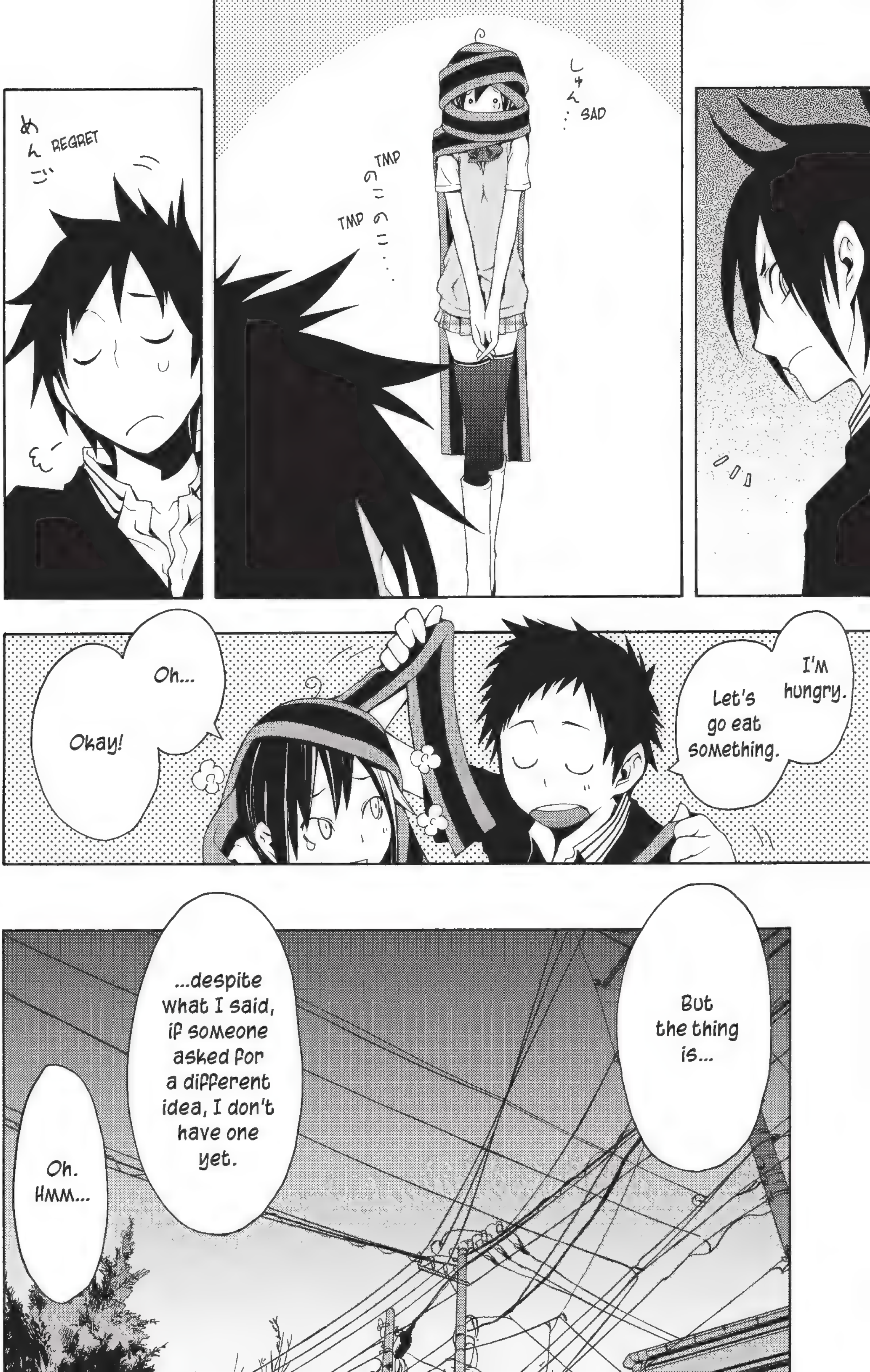

...let's say that living in this town is 80 percent good...
Maybe living in the Afterworld is 100 percent good for the demons?
Did you ever think of that possibility?
......
If that's the case, I know what to do.
TUG
If the Afterworld is 100 percent good...
...I'll make this town 120 percent better.
That's how I deal with things!

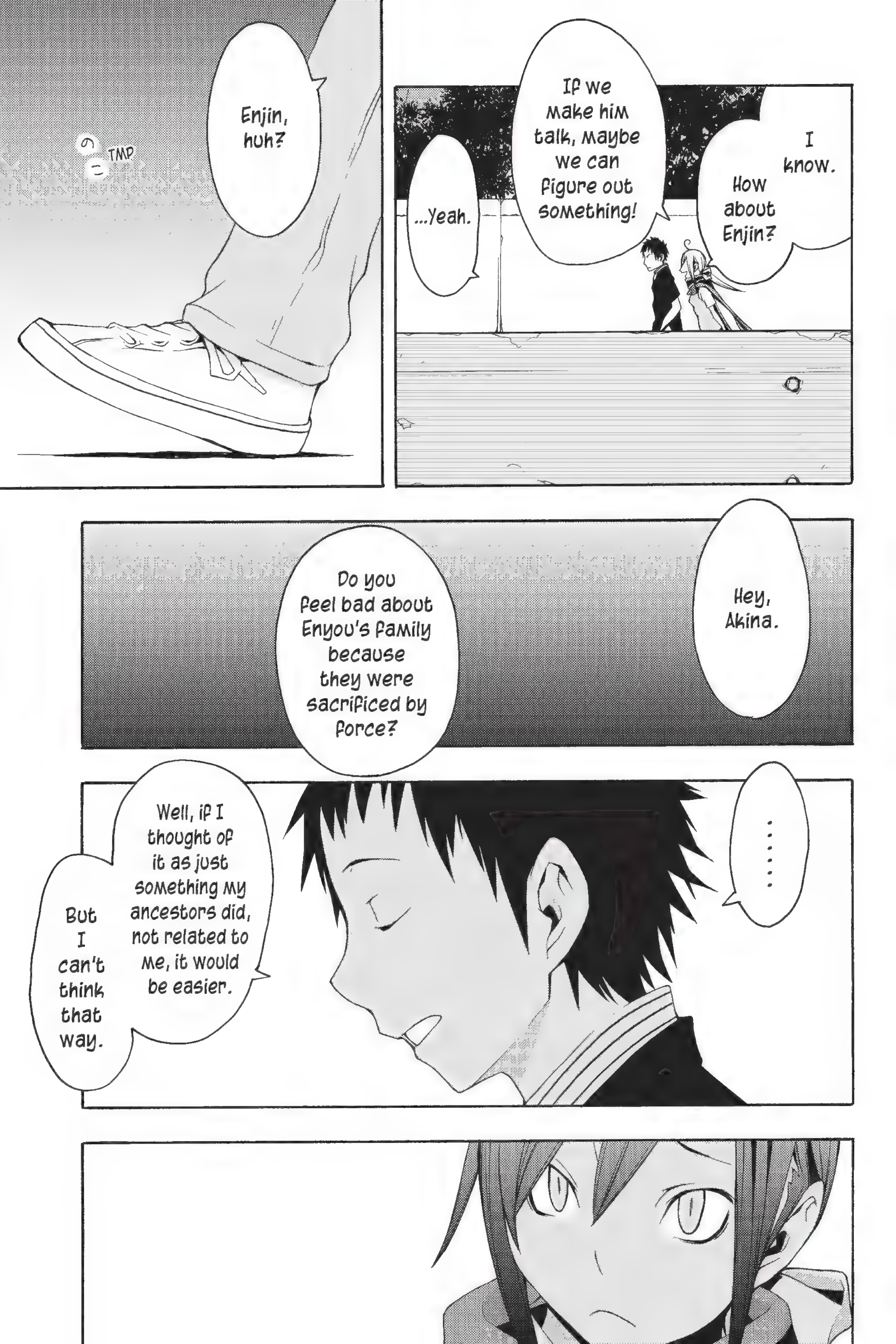

Can you believe him?
...Humph.
He really is the same.
Just like Makiharu-san...
...when he used to run the office.
......
It's not just the demons...
...who are foreign to this world.

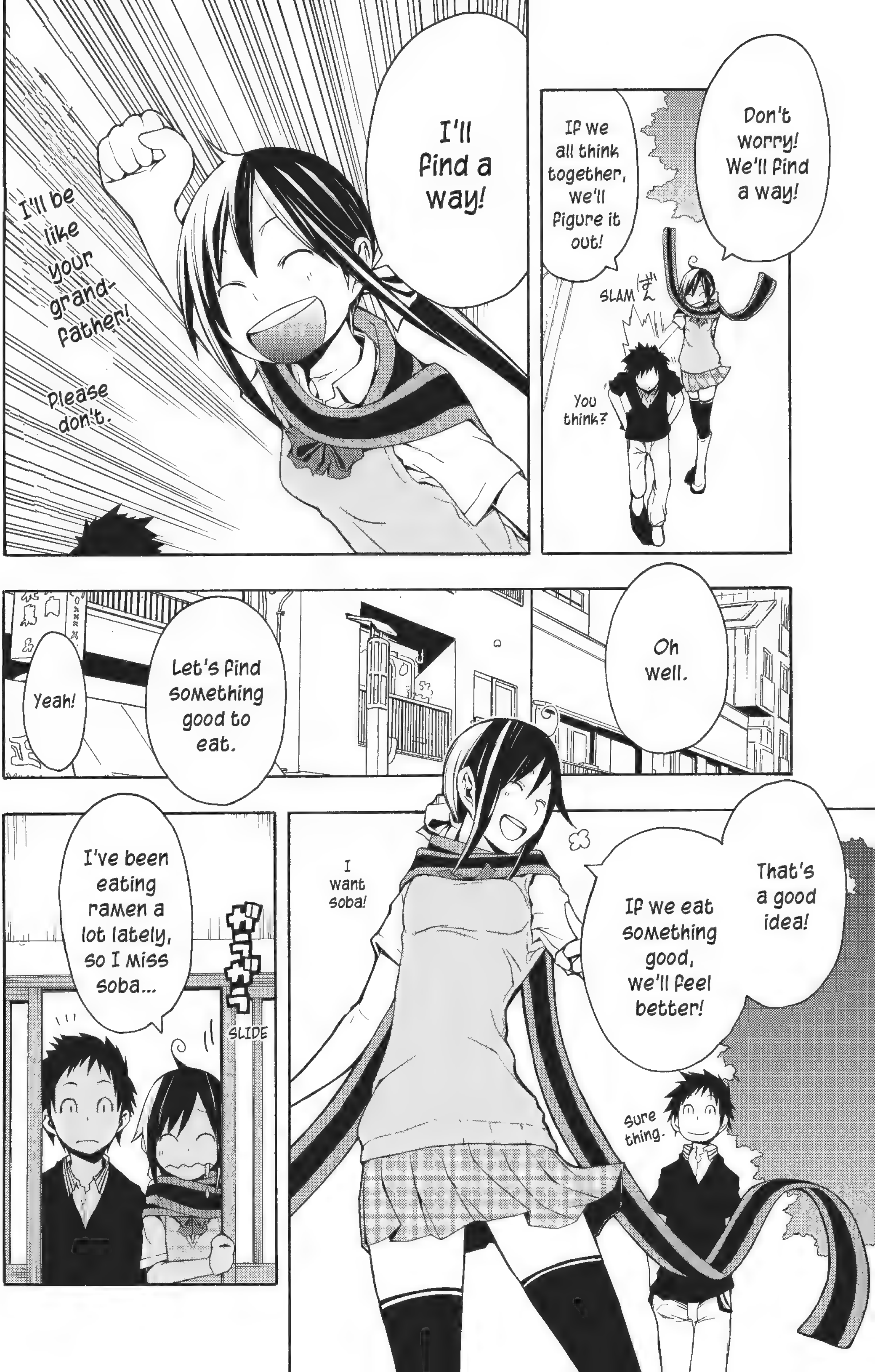

The oyakume is just as foreign.
Maybe more so.

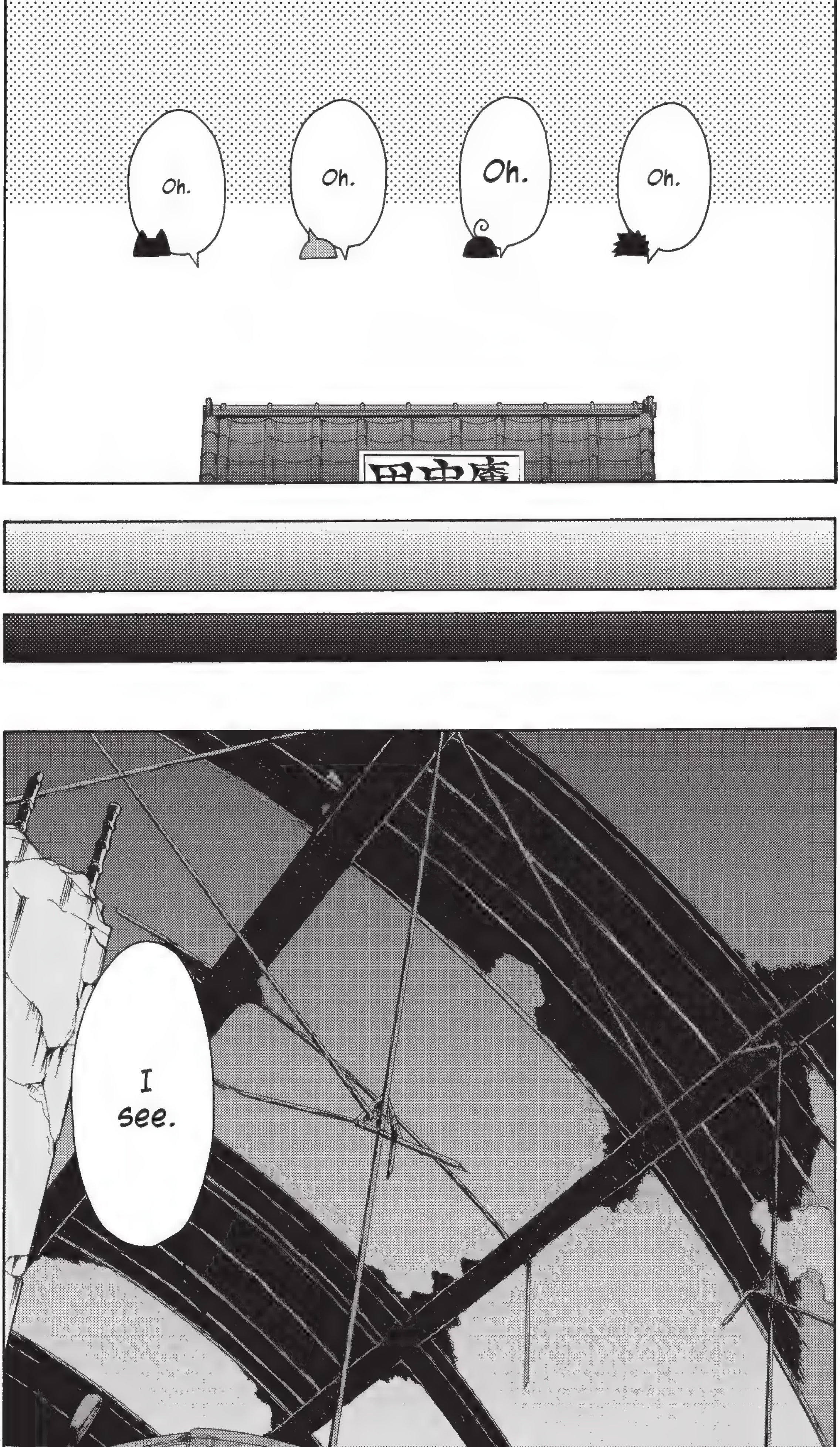

TMP
TMP
...

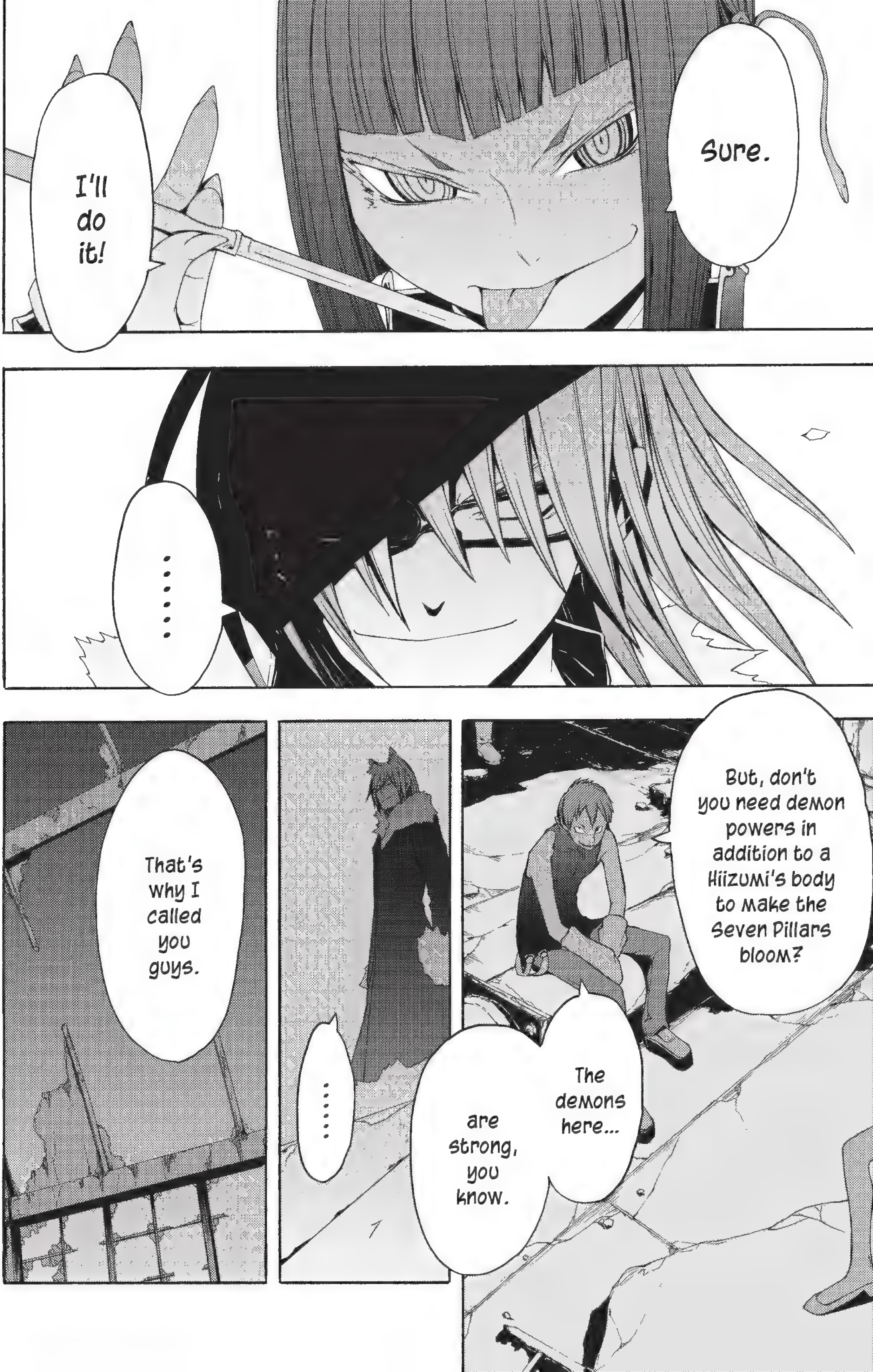

TMP
TMP
......
TMP
...
Hey, look.
Don't you think I've gotten better at washing my scarf?
SHINY!
ピッカピカ!
......
Oh, and look! I made up dance moves to the town song!
Tsun tsun dere tsun ♪
SEE?
......
Oh, Akina...
You're hurt...
YANK
ぱっ
Mm...

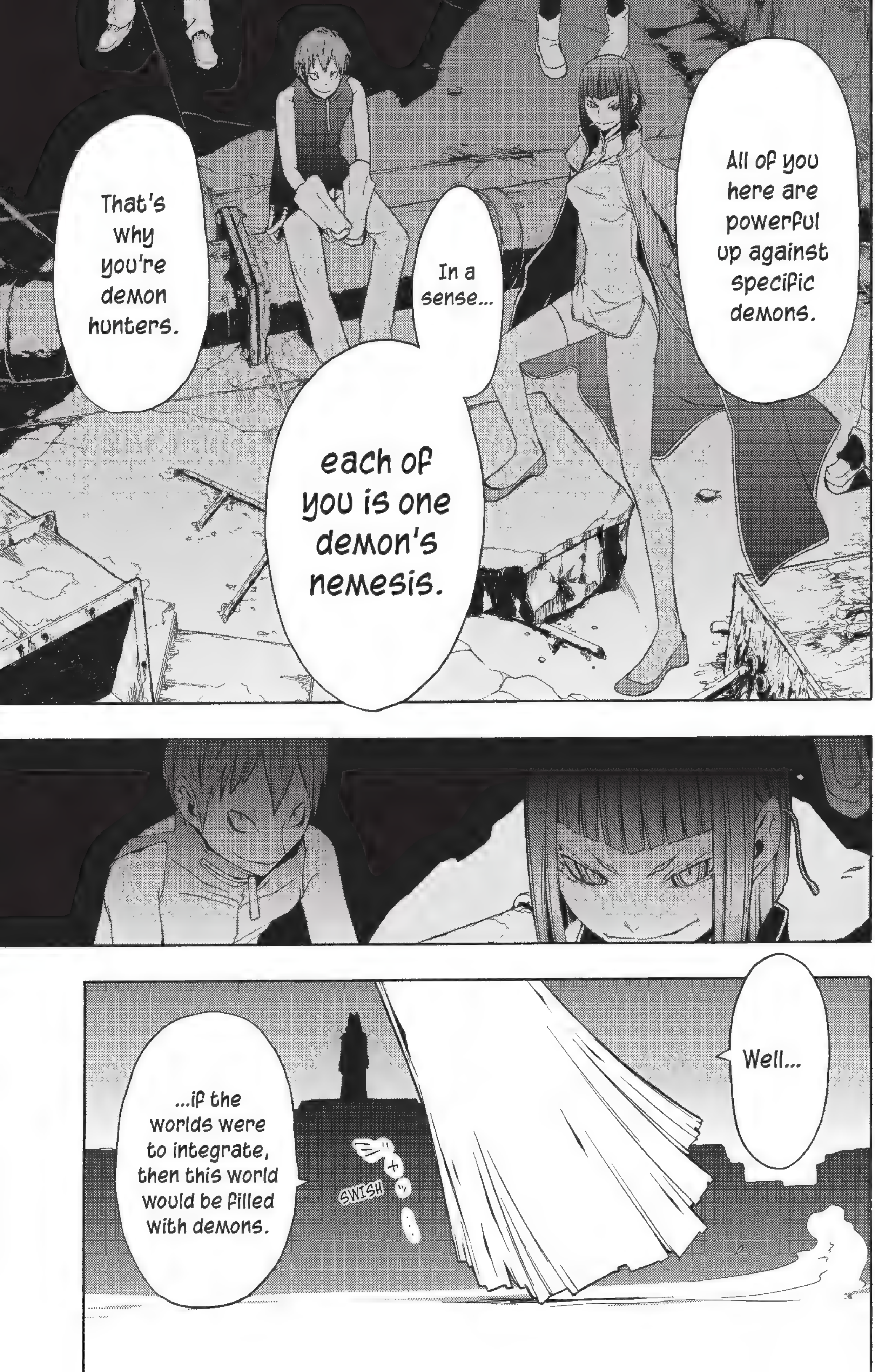

しゅん… SAD
のこのこ… TMP TMP
めんご REGRET
I'm hungry.
Let's go eat something.
Oh...
Okay!
But the thing is...
...despite what I said, if someone asked for a different idea, I don't have one yet.
Oh. Hmm...

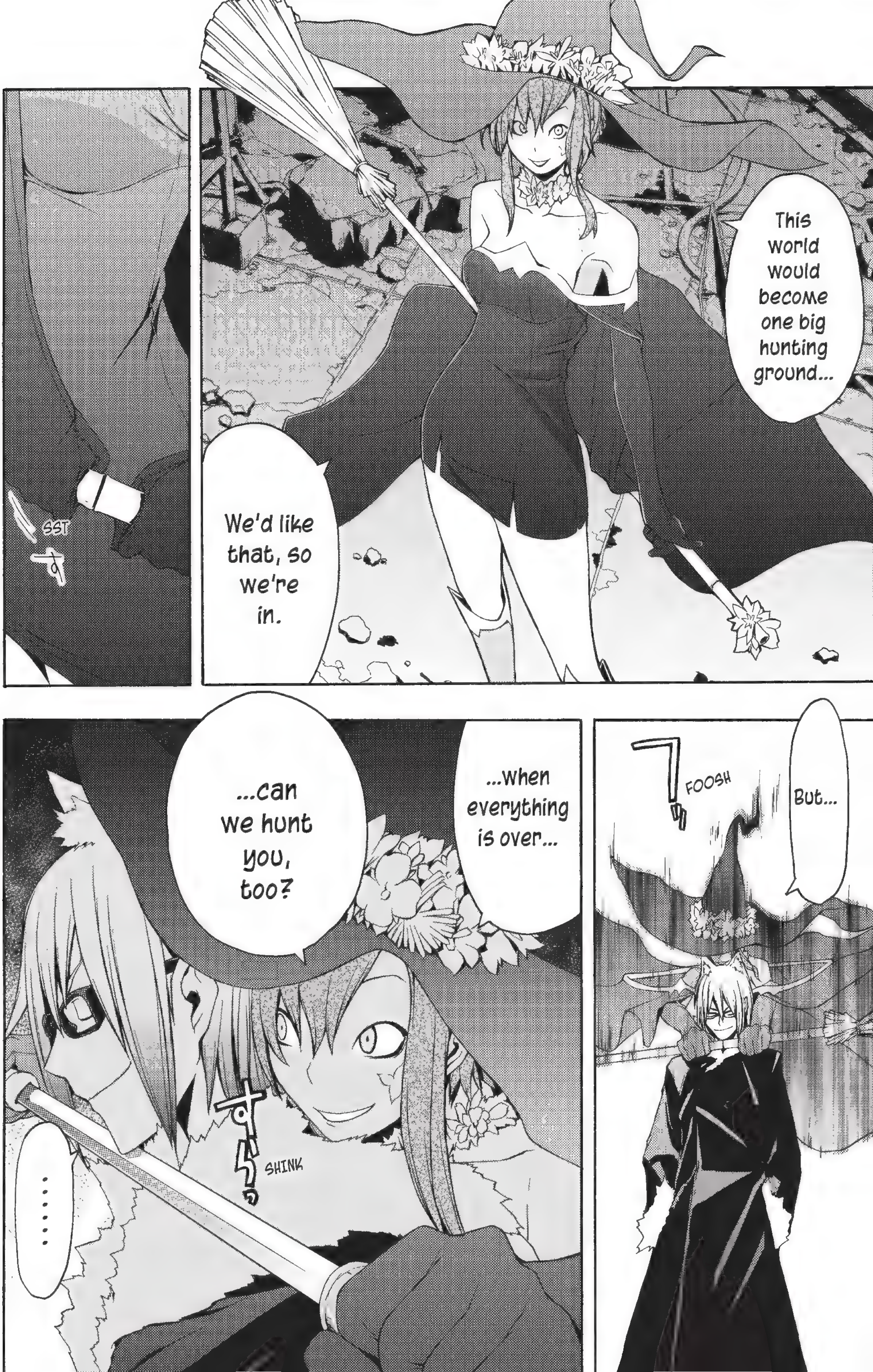

I know.
How about Enjin?
If we make him talk, maybe we can figure out something!
...Yeah.
Enjin, huh?
の
TMP
Hey, Akina.
Do you feel bad about Enyou's family because they were sacrificed by force?
......
Well, if I thought of it as just something my ancestors did, not related to me, it would be easier.
But I can't think that way.

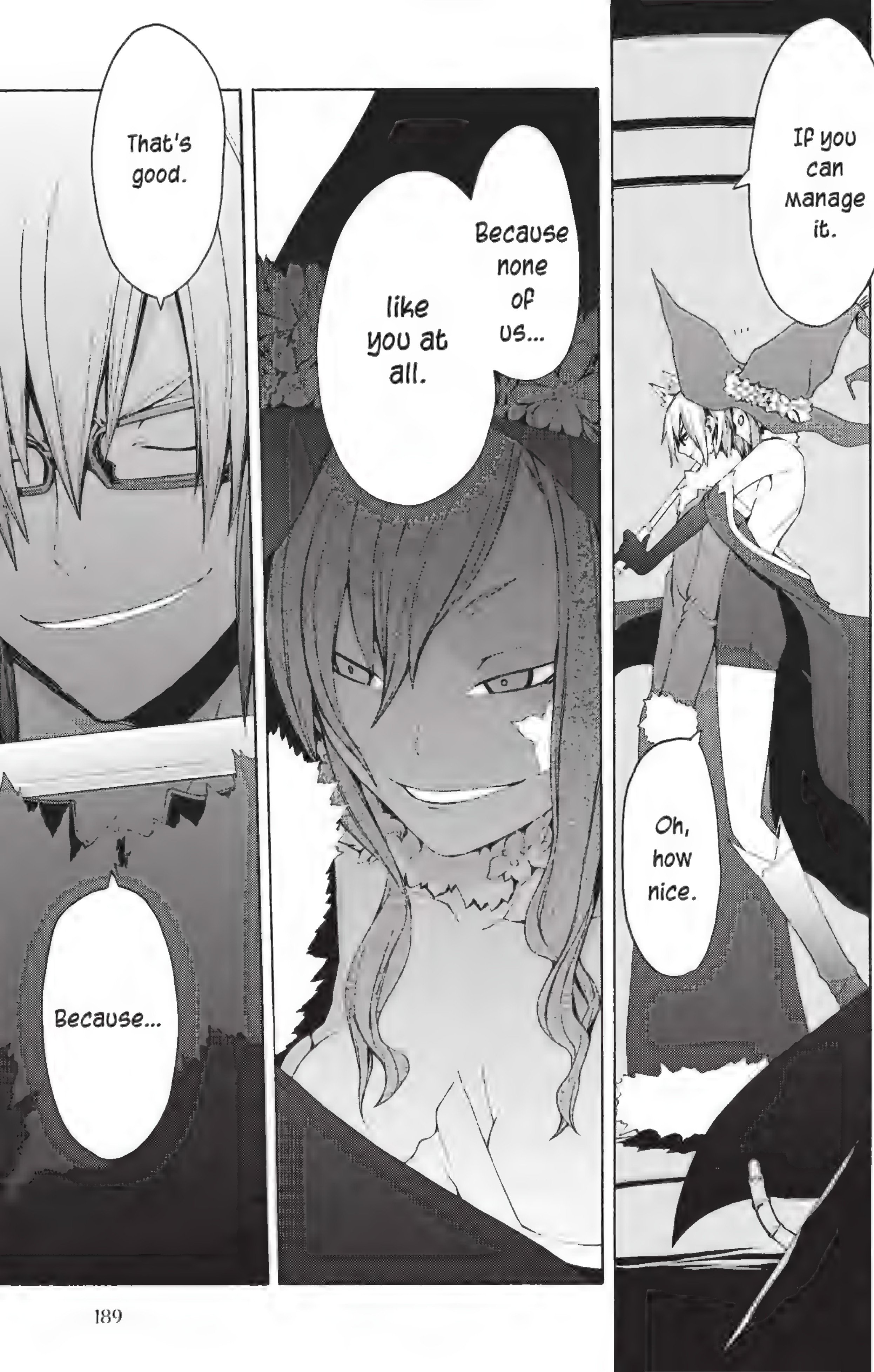

Don't worry! We'll find a way!
If we all think together, we'll figure it out!
SLAM ずん
You think?
I'll find a way!
I'll be like your grand-father!
Please don't.
Oh well.
Let's find something good to eat.
Yeah!
That's a good idea!
If we eat something good, we'll feel better!
Sure thing.
I want soba!
I've been eating ramen a lot lately, so I miss soba...
ガラガラ
SLIDE

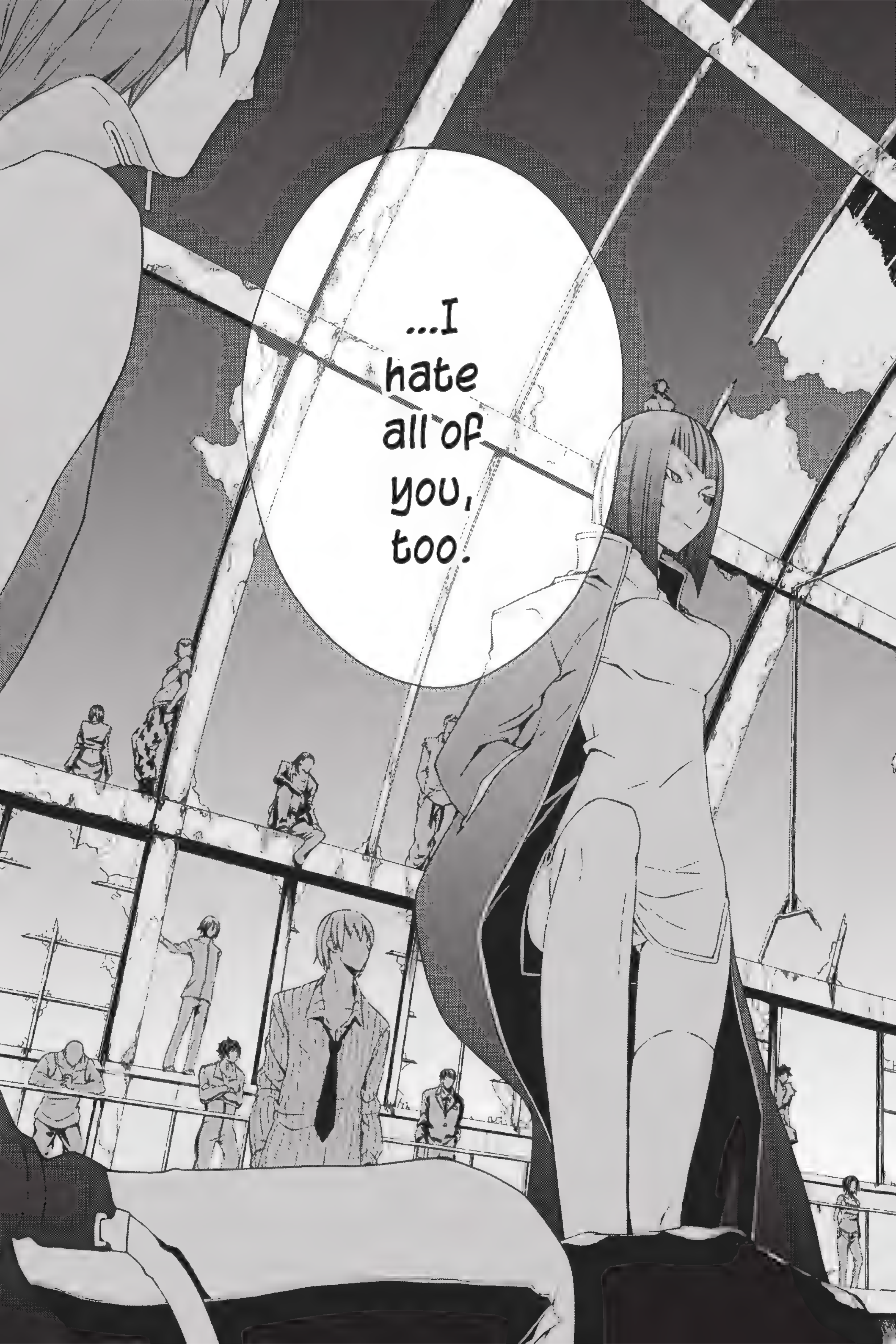

Oh.
Oh.
Oh.
Oh.
I see.

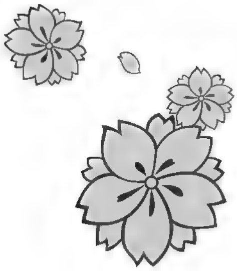

Sure.
I'll do it!
......
But, don't you need demon powers in addition to a Hiizumi's body to make the Seven Pillars bloom?
The demons here...
are strong, you know.
......
That's why I called you guys.


All of you here are powerful up against specific demons.
In a sense...
each of you is one demon's nemesis.
That's why you're demon hunters.
Well...
SWISH
...if the worlds were to integrate, then this world would be filled with demons.


This world would become one big hunting ground...
We'd like that, so we're in.
SST
But...
FOOSH
...when everything is over...
...can we hunt you, too?
SHINK
......


If you can manage it.
...
Oh, how nice.
Because none of us...
like you at all.
That's good.
Because...

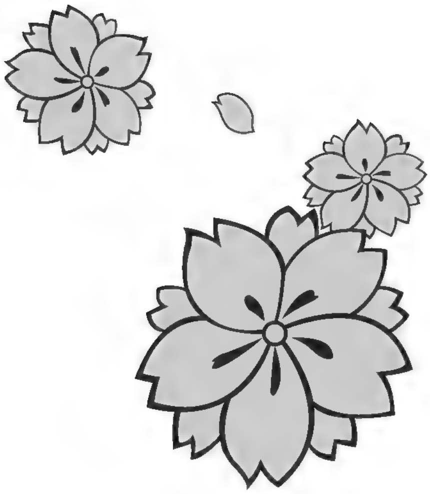

...I hate all of you, too.



22nd Night: Hanamizuki (Part 2) END

To be Continued .....

Yozakura Quartet 5

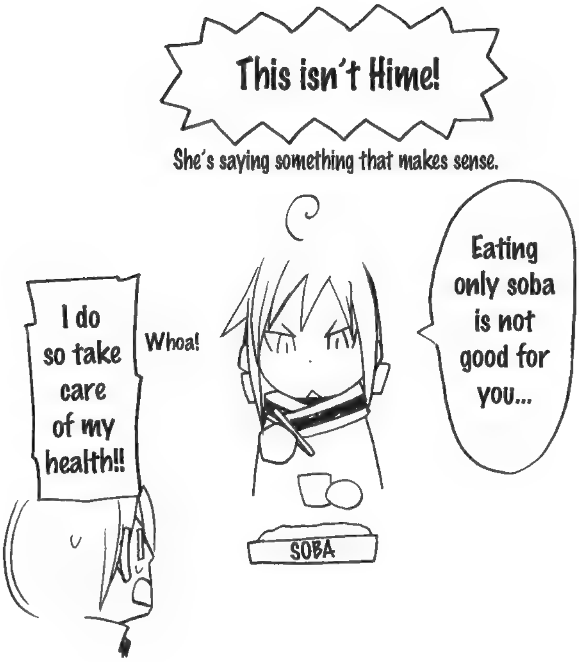


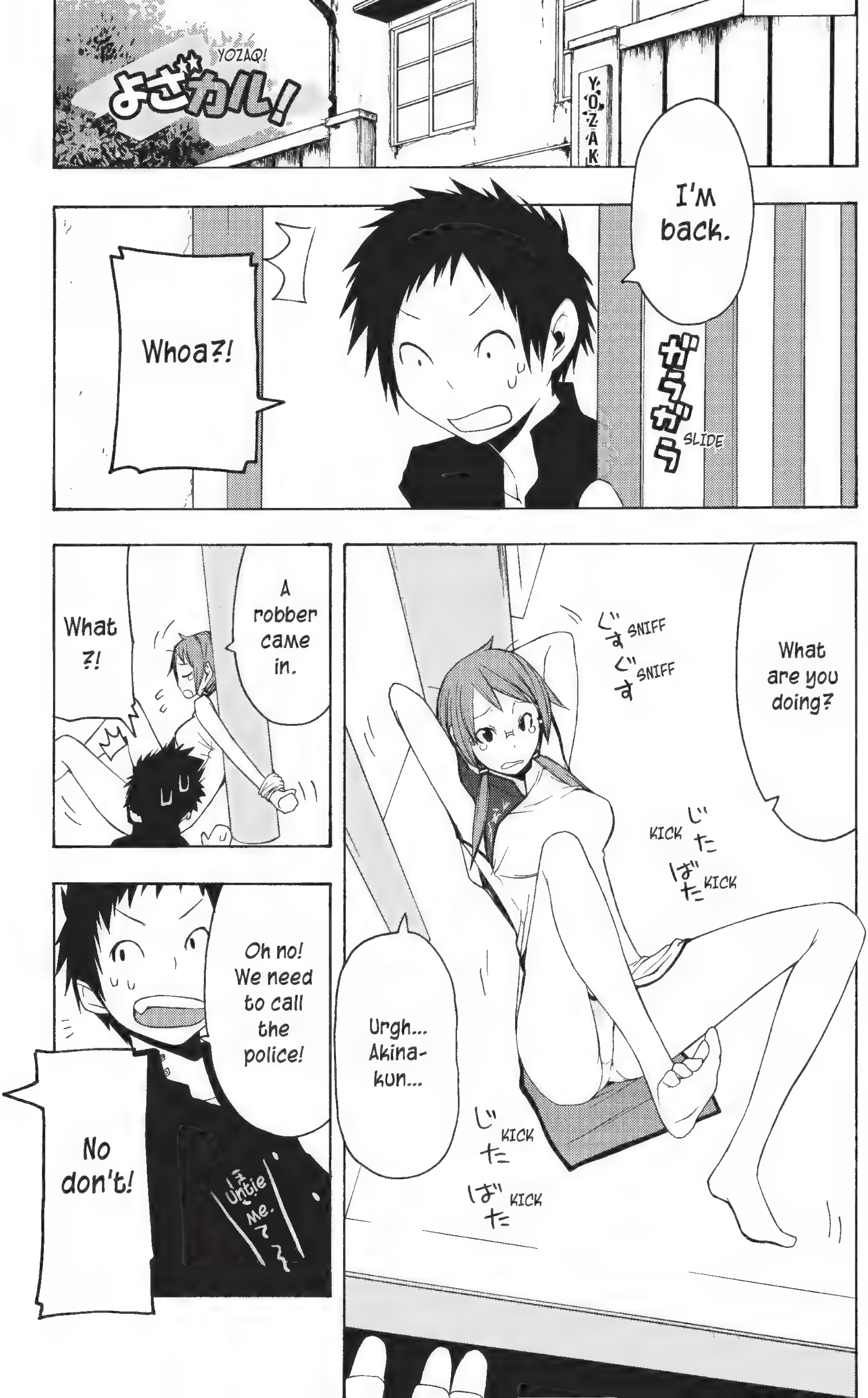
Monthly Shonen Sirius May 2007 issue cover

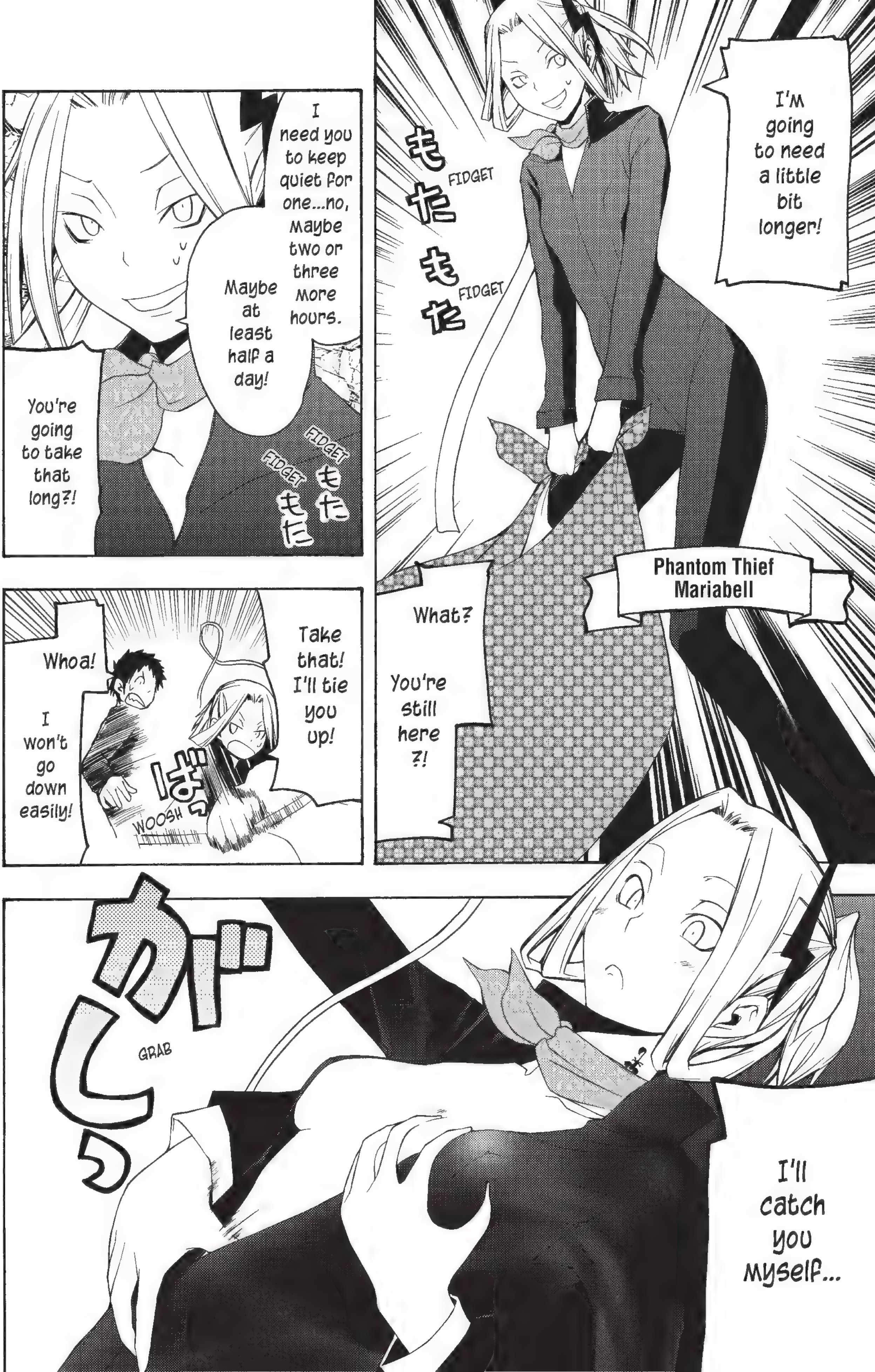
Monthly Shonen Sirius November 2007 issue cover

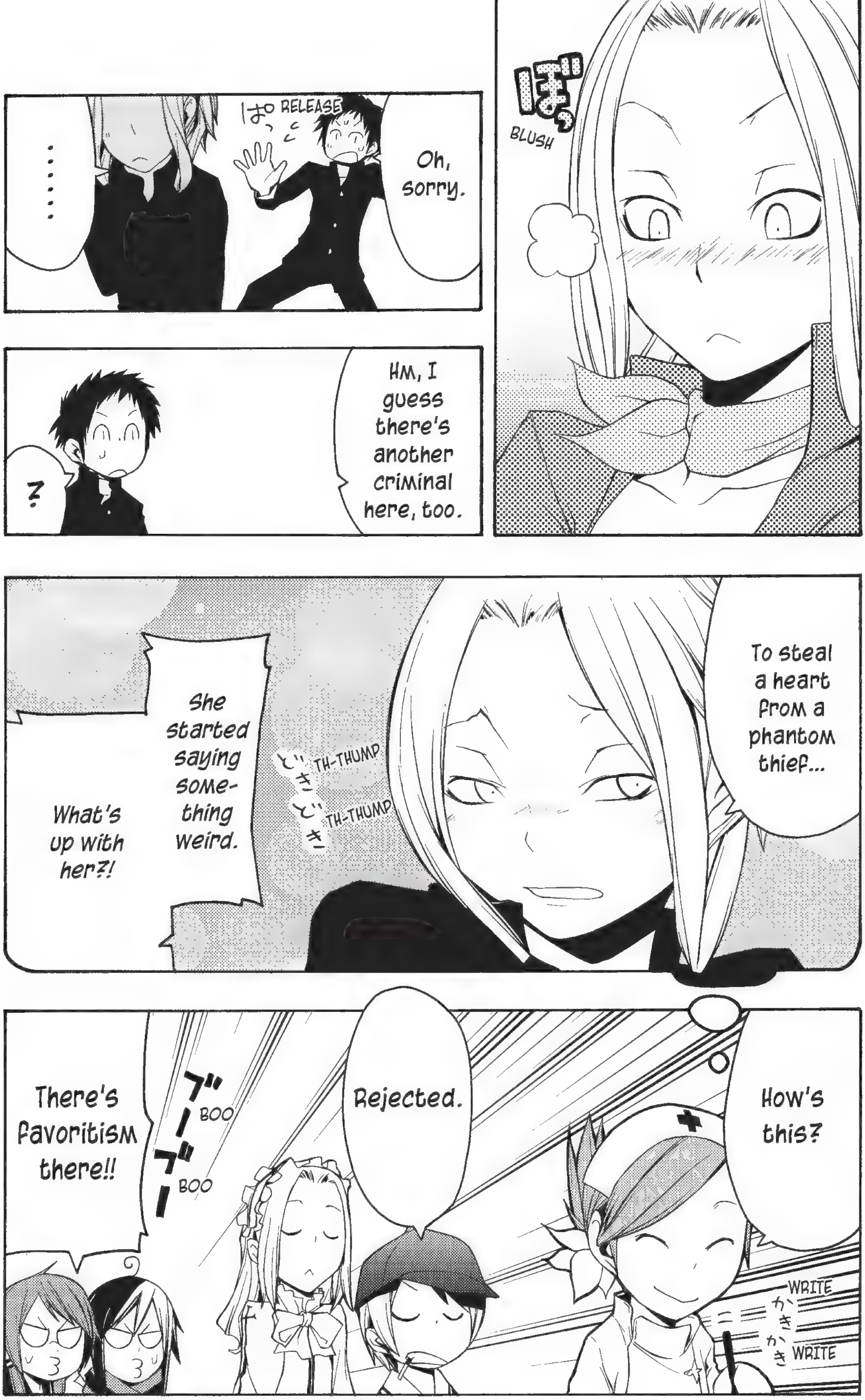
Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet

4


This isn't Hime!
She's saying something that makes sense.
Eating only soba is not good for you...
Whoa!
I do so take care of my health!!
SOBA

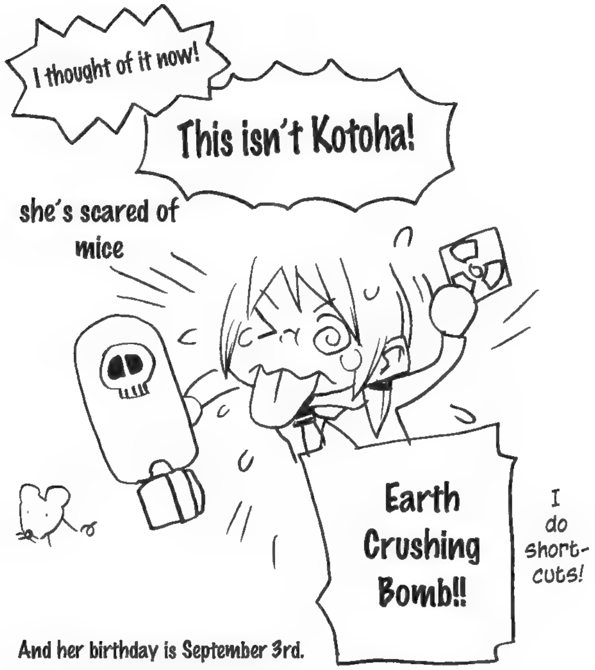

よざかル!
YOZAQ!
YOZAK
I'M back.
ガラガラ
SLIDE
Whoa?!
What are you doing?
ぐすぐす
SNIFF SNIFF
じたばた
KICK KICK
Urgh... Akina-kun...
じたばた
KICK KICK
A robber came in.
What?!
Oh no! We need to call the police!
No don't!
Untie me.


I'm going to need a little bit longer!
もたもた
FIDGET FIDGET
Phantom Thief Mariabell
What?
You're still here?!
I need you to keep quiet for one...no, maybe two or three more hours.
Maybe at least half a day!
You're going to take that long?!
もたもた
FIDGET FIDGET
Take that! I'll tie you up!
Whoa!
I won't go down easily!
ばっ
WOOSH
がしっ
GRAB
I'll catch you myself...

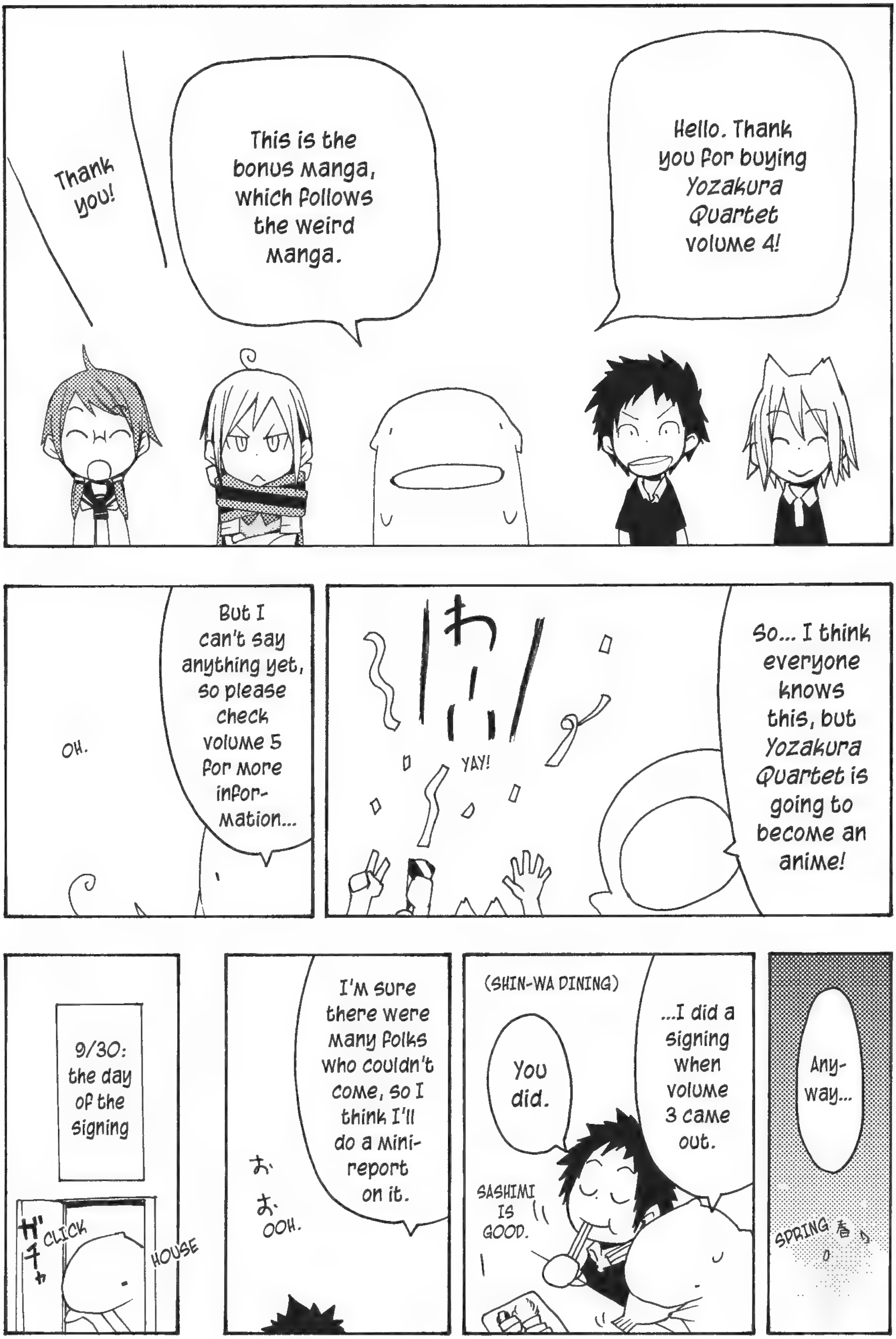

ぼっ
BLUSH
ぱっ RELEASE
Oh, sorry.
......
Hm, I guess there's another criminal here, too.
?
To steal a heart from a phantom thief...
どきどき TH-THUMP TH-THUMP
She started saying something weird.
What's up with her?!
How's this?
かきかき WRITE WRITE
Rejected.
ブーブー BOO BOO
There's favoritism there!!

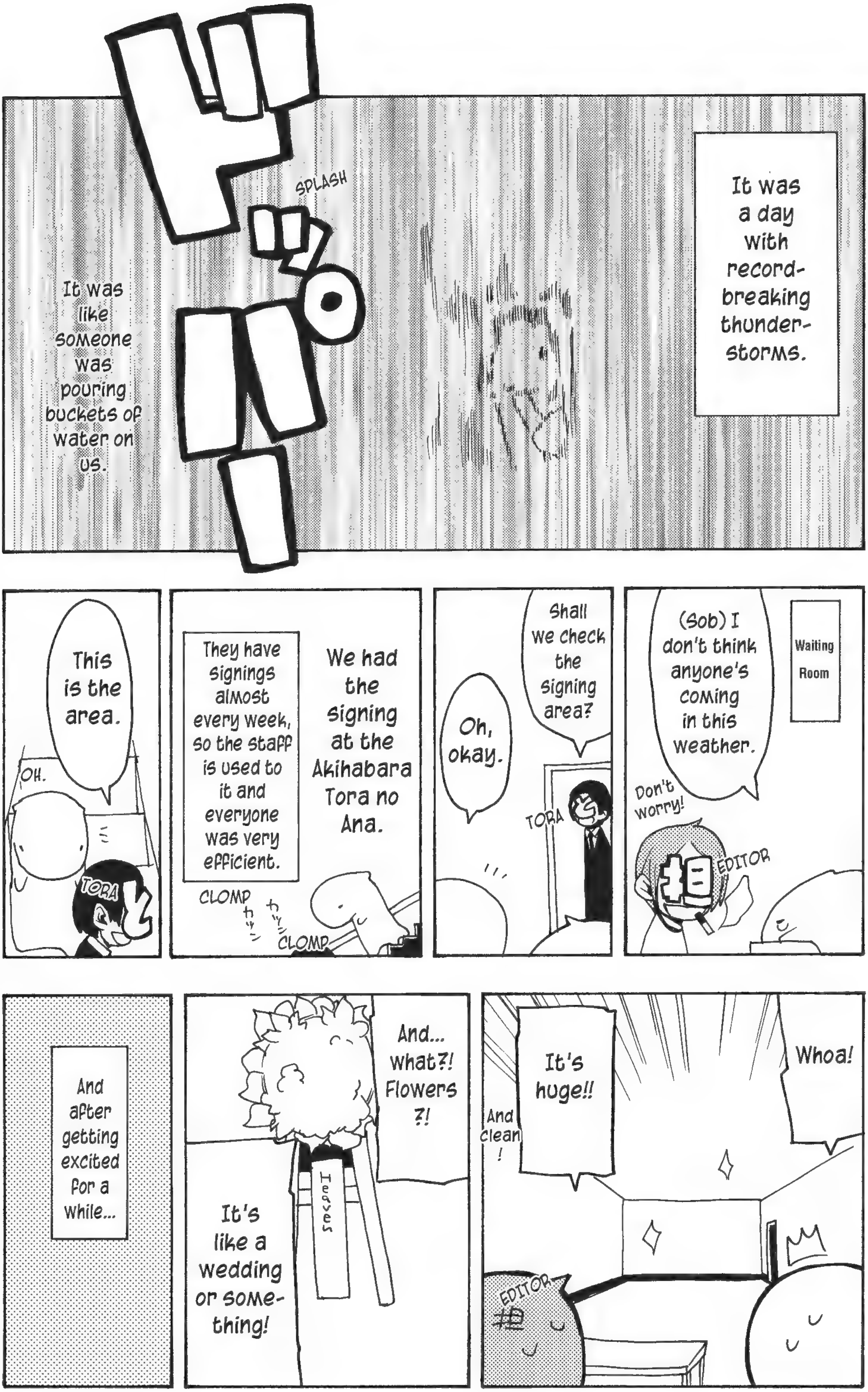
Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet

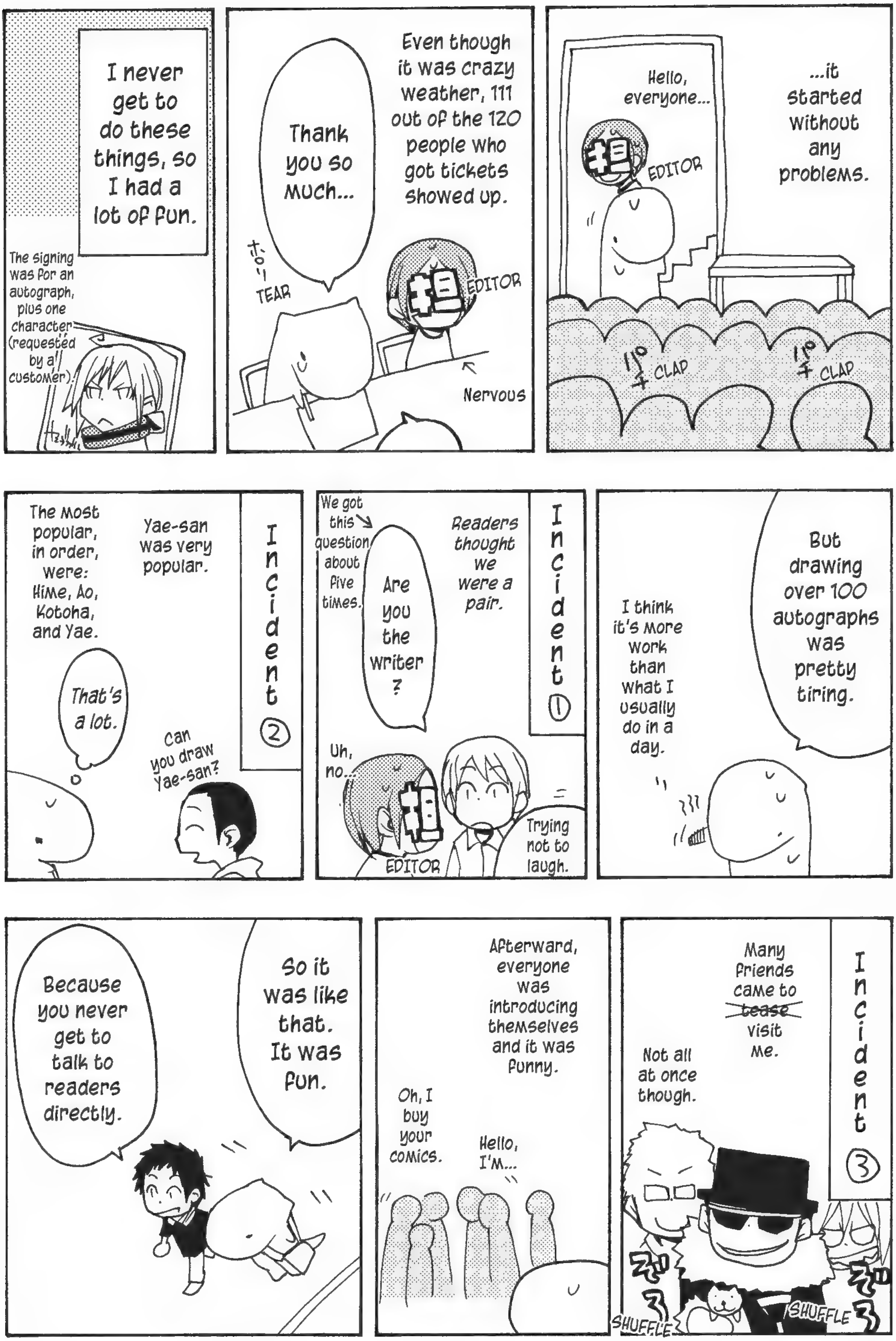
4

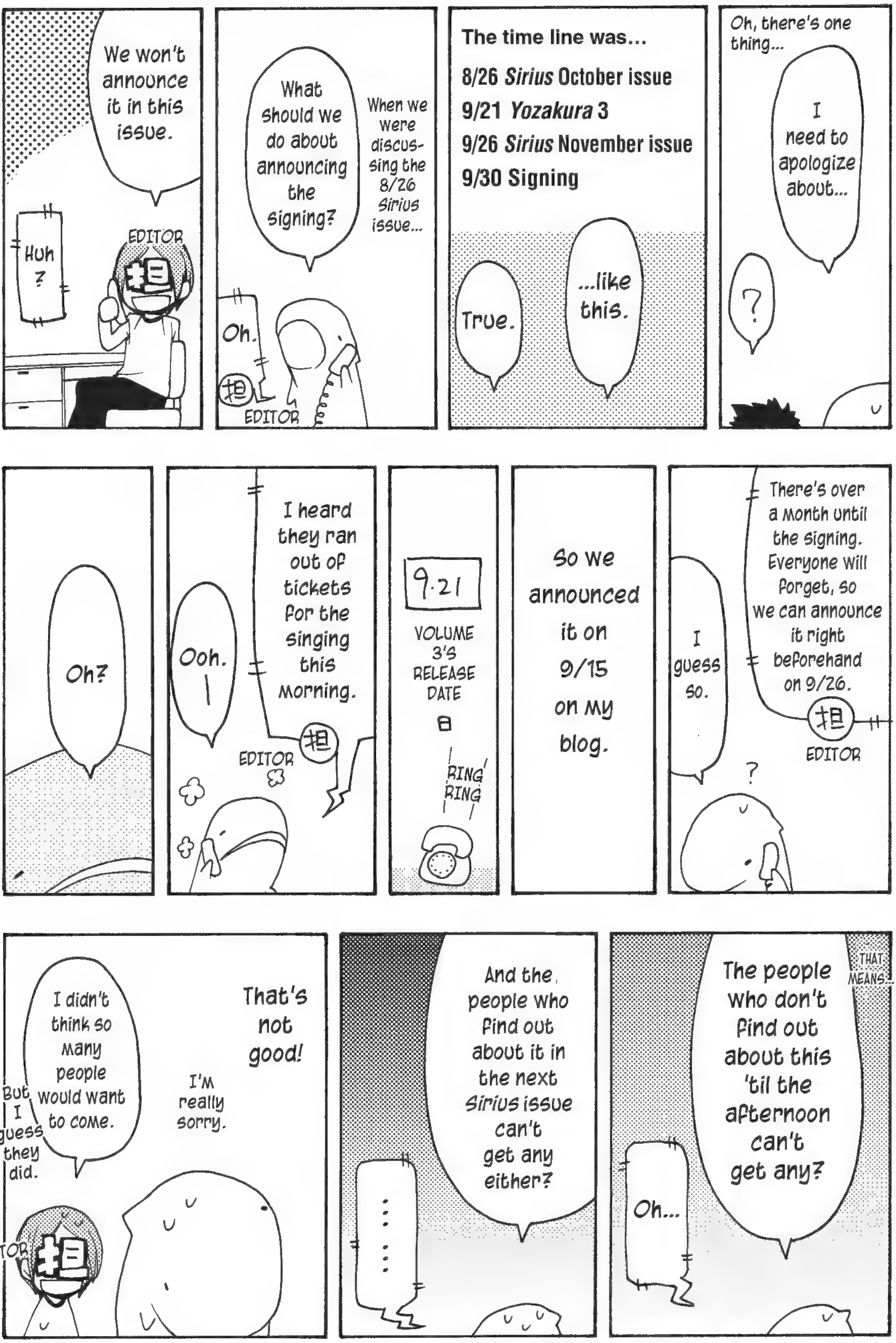

I thought of it now!
This isn't Kotoha!
she's scared of mice
Earth Crushing Bomb!!
I do short-cuts!
And her birthday is September 3rd.

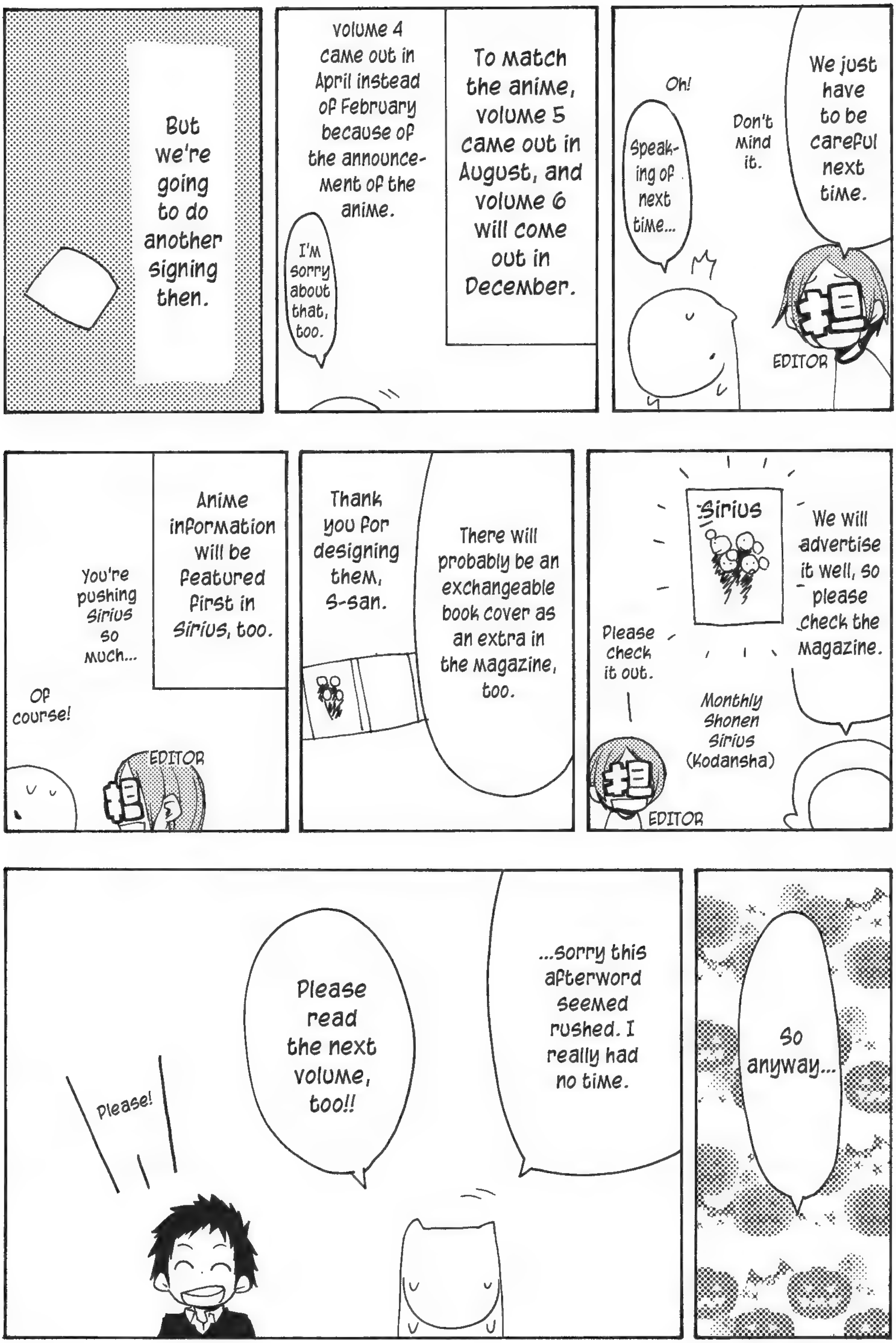
Bonus Manga

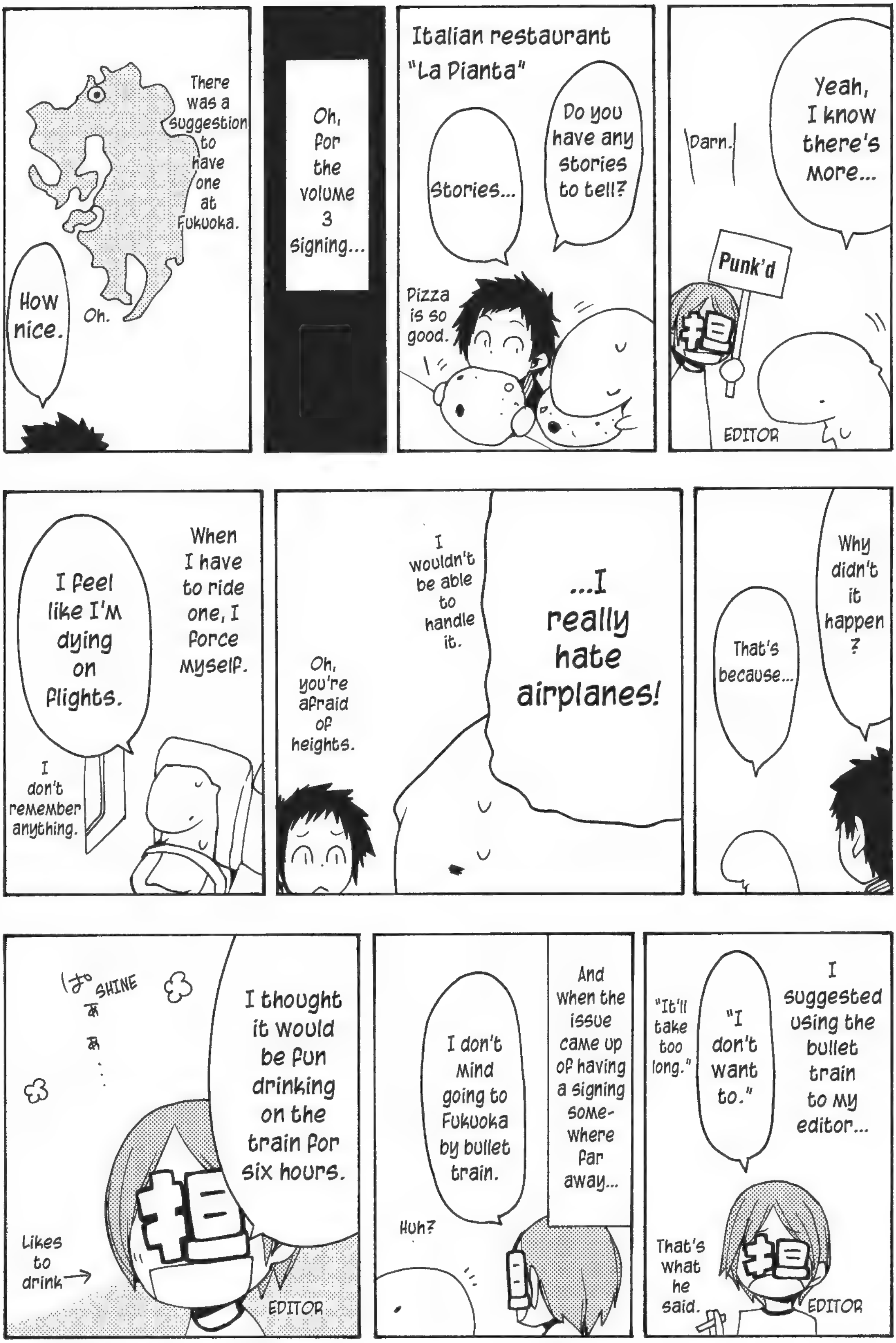

Hello. Thank you for buying *Yozakura Quartet* volume 4!
This is the bonus manga, which follows the weird manga.
Thank you!
So... I think everyone knows this, but *Yozakura Quartet* is going to become an anime!
わーい!
YAY!
But I can't say anything yet, so please check volume 5 for more information...
OH.
Any-way...
SPRING 春
...I did a signing when volume 3 came out.
You did.
(SHIN-WA DINING)
SASHIMI IS GOOD.
I'm sure there were many folks who couldn't come, so I think I'll do a mini-report on it.
おお
OOH.
9/30: the day of the signing
ガチャ
CLICK
HOUSE

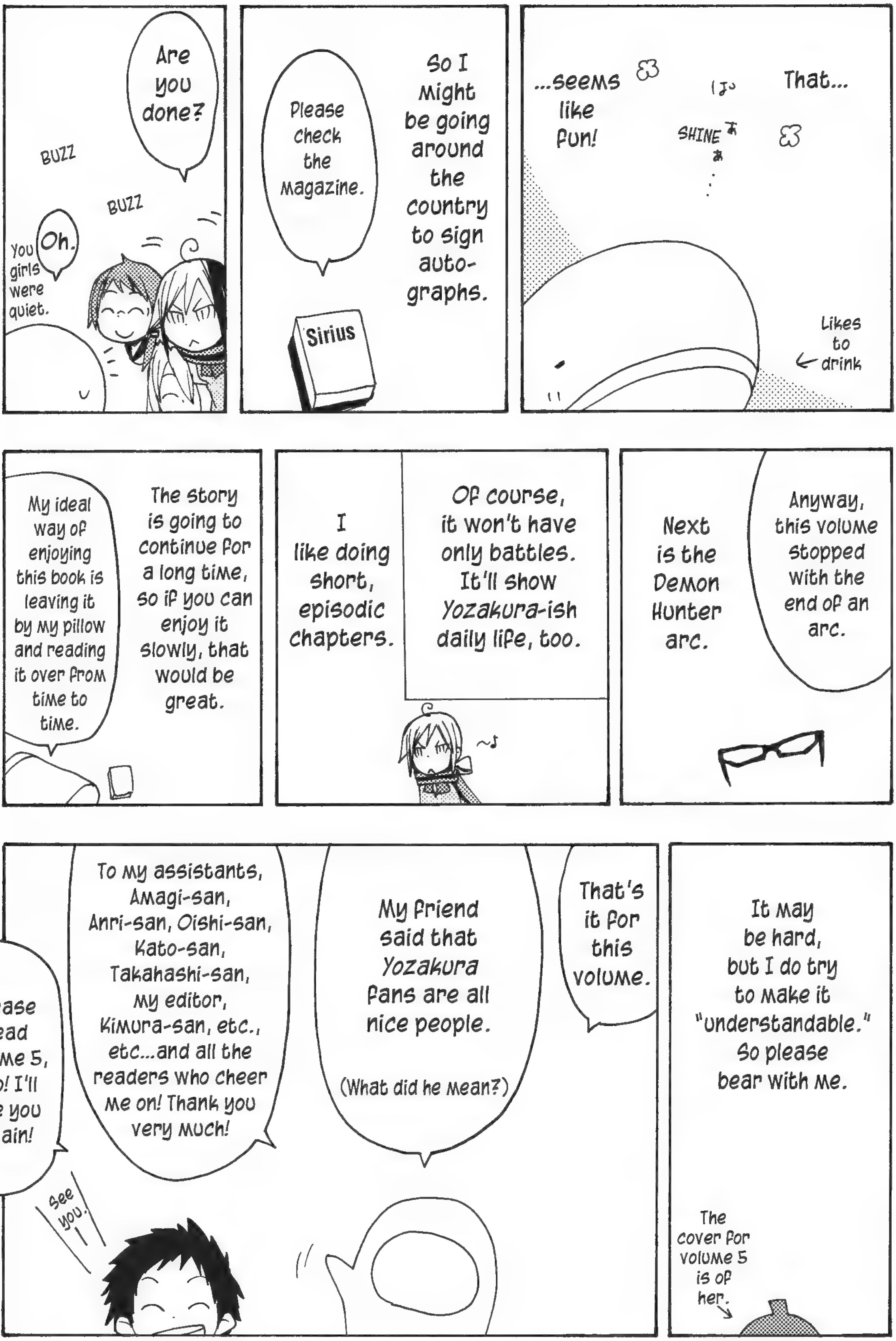

It was a day with record-breaking thunderstorms.
SPLASH
It was like someone was pouring buckets of water on us.
Waiting Room
(Sob) I don't think anyone's coming in this weather.
Don't worry!
EDITOR
Shall we check the signing area?
Oh, okay.
TORA
We had the signing at the Akihabara Tora no Ana.
They have signings almost every week, so the staff is used to it and everyone was very efficient.
CLOMP
カッ
カッ
CLOMP
This is the area.
OH.
TORA
Whoa!
It's huge!!
And clean!
EDITOR
And... what?! Flowers?!
Heaves
It's like a wedding or something!
And after getting excited for a while...


...it started without any problems.
Hello, everyone...
EDITOR
CLAP
CLAP
Even though it was crazy weather, 111 out of the 120 people who got tickets showed up.
Thank you so much...
TEAR
EDITOR
Nervous
I never get to do these things, so I had a lot of fun.
The signing was for an autograph, plus one character (requested by a customer).
But drawing over 100 autographs was pretty tiring.
I think it's more work than what I usually do in a day.
Incident ①
Readers thought we were a pair.
Are you the writer?
We got this question about five times.
Uh, no...
EDITOR
Trying not to laugh.
Incident ②
Yae-san was very popular.
The most popular, in order, were: Hime, Ao, Kotoha, and Yae.
That's a lot.
Can you draw Yae-san?
Incident ③
Many friends came to ~~tease~~ visit me.
Not all at once though.
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
Afterward, everyone was introducing themselves and it was funny.
Hello, I'm...
Oh, I buy your comics.
So it was like that. It was fun.
Because you never get to talk to readers directly.


Oh, there's one thing...
I need to apologize about...
?
The time line was...
8/26 *Sirius* October issue
9/21 *Yozakura* 3
9/26 *Sirius* November issue
9/30 Signing
...like this.
True.
When we were discussing the 8/26 Sirius issue...
What should we do about announcing the signing?
Oh.
EDITOR
We won't announce it in this issue.
EDITOR
Huh?
There's over a month until the signing. Everyone will forget, so we can announce it right beforehand on 9/26.
EDITOR
I guess so.
?
So we announced it on 9/15 on my blog.
9.21
VOLUME 3'S RELEASE DATE
RING RING
I heard they ran out of tickets for the singing this morning.
EDITOR
Ooh.
Oh?
THAT MEANS...
The people who don't find out about this 'til the afternoon can't get any?
Oh...
And the people who find out about it in the next Sirius issue can't get any either?
......
That's not good!
I'm really sorry.
I didn't think so many people would want to come.
But I guess they did.
EDITOR


We just have to be careful next time.
Don't mind it.
Oh!
Speaking of next time...
EDITOR
To match the anime, volume 5 came out in August, and volume 6 will come out in December.
Volume 4 came out in April instead of February because of the announcement of the anime.
I'm sorry about that, too.
But we're going to do another signing then.
We will advertise it well, so please check the magazine.
Sirius
Please check it out.
Monthly Shonen Sirius (Kodansha)
EDITOR
There will probably be an exchangeable book cover as an extra in the magazine, too.
Thank you for designing them, S-san.
Anime information will be featured first in Sirius, too.
You're pushing Sirius so much...
Of course!
EDITOR
So anyway...
...sorry this afterword seemed rushed. I really had no time.
Please read the next volume, too!!
Please!


Yeah, I know there's more...
Darn.
Punk'd
EDITOR
Italian restaurant "La Pianta"
Do you have any stories to tell?
Stories...
Pizza is so good.
Oh, for the volume 3 signing...
There was a suggestion to have one at Fukuoka.
Oh.
How nice.
Why didn't it happen?
That's because...
...I really hate airplanes!
I wouldn't be able to handle it.
Oh, you're afraid of heights.
When I have to ride one, I force myself.
I feel like I'm dying on flights.
I don't remember anything.
I suggested using the bullet train to my editor...
"I don't want to."
"It'll take too long."
That's what he said.
EDITOR
And when the issue came up of having a signing somewhere far away...
I don't mind going to Fukuoka by bullet train.
Huh?
I thought it would be fun drinking on the train for six hours.
ぱあ SHINE
ああ...
Likes to drink
EDITOR


That...
SHINE
...seems like fun!
Likes to drink
So I might be going around the country to sign autographs.
Please check the magazine.
Sirius
Are you done?
BUZZ
BUZZ
Oh.
You girls were quiet.
Anyway, this volume stopped with the end of an arc.
Next is the Demon Hunter arc.
Of course, it won't have only battles. It'll show *Yozakura*-ish daily life, too.
I like doing short, episodic chapters.
The story is going to continue for a long time, so if you can enjoy it slowly, that would be great.
My ideal way of enjoying this book is leaving it by my pillow and reading it over from time to time.
It may be hard, but I do try to make it "understandable." So please bear with me.
The cover for volume 5 is of her.
That's it for this volume.
My friend said that *Yozakura* fans are all nice people.
(What did he mean?)
To my assistants, Amagi-san, Anri-san, Oishi-san, Kato-san, Takahashi-san, my editor, Kimura-san, etc., etc...and all the readers who cheer me on! Thank you very much!
Please read volume 5, too! I'll see you again!
See you.

About the Author

Suzuhito Yasuda's cute and colorful character designs, sharp linework, and unique talents have made him a popular artist in the fields of both manga and novel illustration. He has illustrated such Japanese novels as *Kamisama Kazoku*, *Scarlet Sword*, and *Maid Machinegun*. He has also worked on the manga series *Pinky:Comic* and *Ebony & Ivory*; *Yozakura Quartet* is his latest work.

His Preferred Tools:
PowerMAC G4 933Mhz
Apple studio display 17 TFT

PowerMAC G4 Cube
Apple Studio Display 17 CRT

Sony VAIO Notebook PCG542B

They were quiet because...
z z z . . .
Please watch!
...they were tired in the anime.

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more an art than a science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Sakura

Sakura is the Japanese term for cherry blossoms. *Yozakura* in the title refers to *sakura* at night, or viewing *sakura* at night.

Jiang Shi, page 4

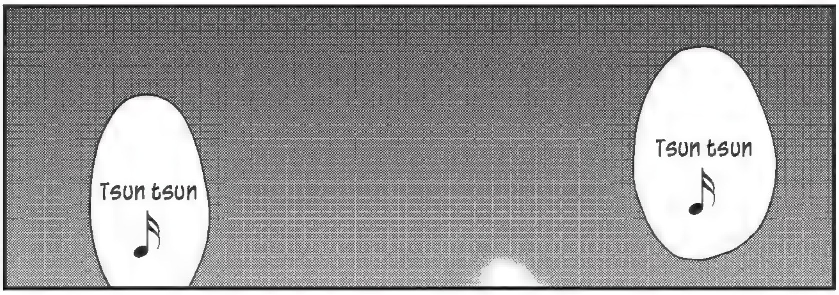
A *Jiang Shi* is a Chinese demon. These zombies hop around and prey on living creatures to absorb their *chi* (living energy).

Hanamizuki, page 6

Hanamizuki is the Japanese name for *Cornus florida*, also known as flowering dogwood. It was sent as a thank-you gift to Japan in the early 1900s from the United States after Japan sent cherry blossoms to Washington D.C..

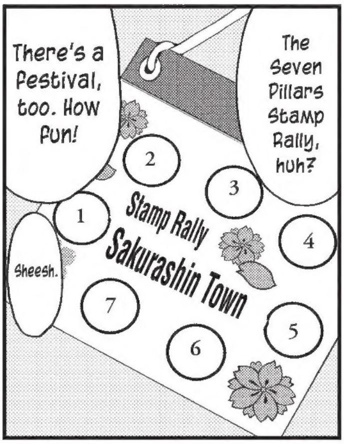
Tsundere, page 85

Mina is singing the town song, "Tsundere," which Hime taught to the kids in volume 1. *Tsundere* is a term for a specific character trait, describing a person who is standoffish or aloof who can become loveable and adorable in different situations. This term first started in Japanese dating simulation games, then moved on to anime and manga, but is now widely used in mass media.



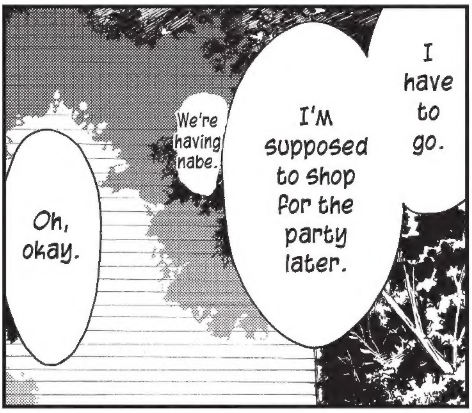
Stamp Rally, page 85

A stamp rally is a common activity in Japan where you get a card with spaces to stamp and you go around to various points to get those stamps. If you get all the stamps, you can get a prize.


The Seven Pillars Stamp Rally, huh?
There's a festival, too. How fun!
Sheesh.
Stamp Rally
Sakurashin Town
1
2
3
4
5
6
7

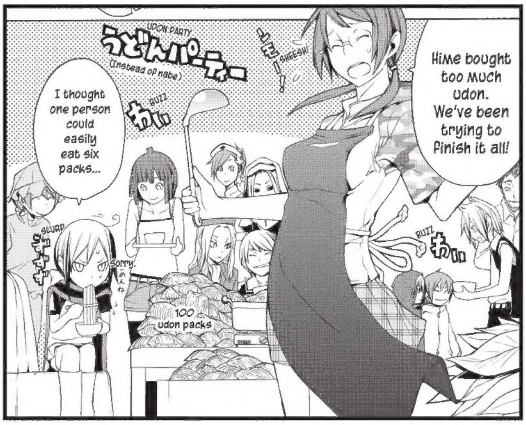
Nabe, page 110

This dish includes vegetables such as *nappa* cabbage, mushrooms, green onions, tofu, and meat. The actual word *nabe* means "pot."


I have to go.
I'm supposed to shop for the party later.
We're having nabe.
Oh, okay.

Udon, page 119

Udon is a white, thick noodle. People like to eat it after a *nabe* using the leftover soup.


Hime bought too much udon. We've been trying to finish it all!
ンモ—!
SHEESH!
うどんパーティー
UDON PARTY
(Instead of nabe)
わい
BUZZ
I thought one person could easily eat six packs...
わい
BUZZ
ずずず
SLURP
Sorry.
ごめんね
100 udon packs

Uchi-P, page 122

Uchi-P is an abbreviated term for *Uchimura Produce*, a TV show featuring comedians doing comedy sketches.

Toku-chan, page 122

Toku-chan is short for Yumi Tokunaga, an assistant to the show. She wasn't that good as an assistant and the comedians often picked on her for it. She eventually married Teruyoshi Uchimura, the host and executive producer of *Uchimura Produce*.

Yasu-Kiyo, page 122

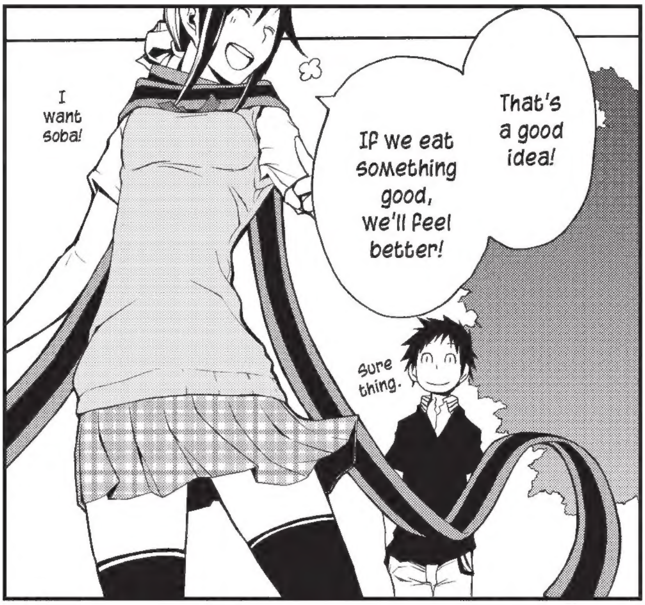
Yasu-Kiyo refers to Yasushi Yokoyama and Kiyoshi Nishikawa, a comedic duo who were top entertainers in the 1970s and '80s.

Cameraman Tsuji, page 122

Cameraman Tsuji is a TV cameraman who works on Uchi-P. His full name is Minoru Tsuji.

Soba, page 184

Soba is the Japanese term for buckwheat noodles. They are gray in color and are one of the healthier noodles available in Japan. They can be served hot or cold, although in manga they are often depicted as cold.


That's a good idea!
If we eat something good, we'll feel better!
I want soba!
Sure thing.

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